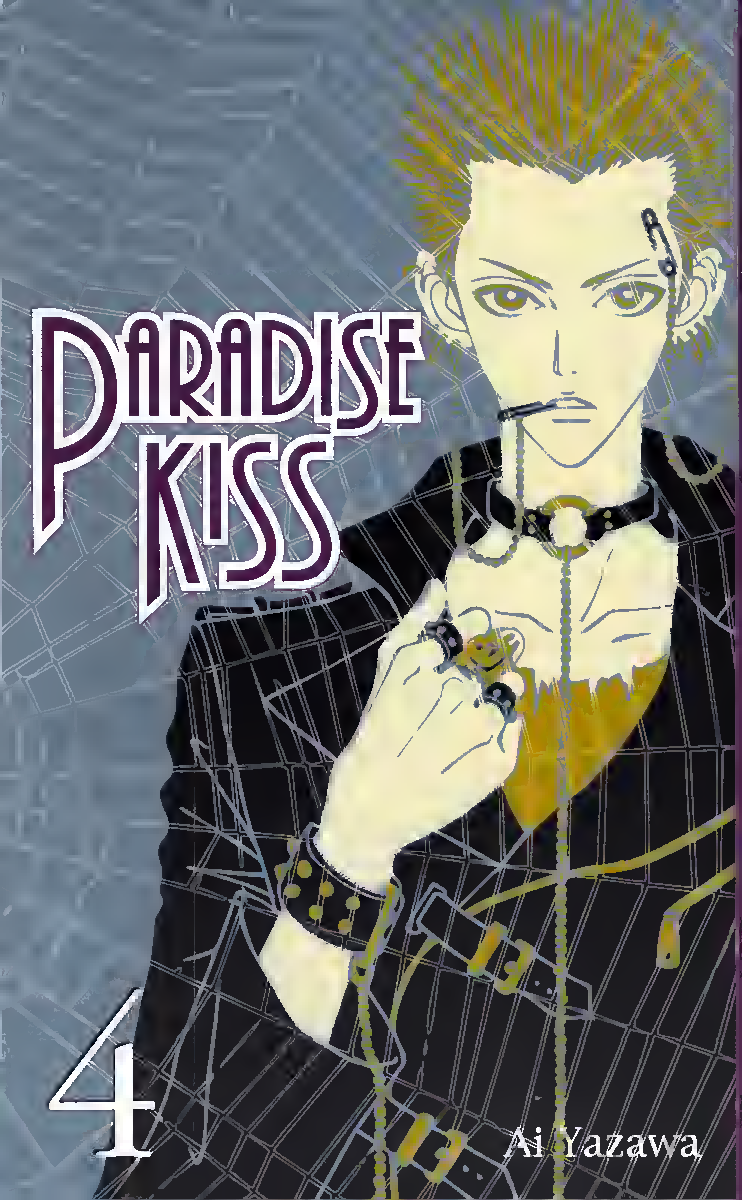

PARADISE KISS
4
Ai Yazawa

Paradise Kiss

Ai Yazawa

PARADISE KISS

Volume 4

Ai Yazawa

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES • TOKYO

Translator - Shirley Kubo
English Adaption - Kristen Bailey Murphy
Editor - Paul Morrissey
Retouch & Lettering - Monalisa de Asis
Cover and Graphic Design - Anna Kernbaum

Senior Editor - Julie Taylor
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller and Jennifer Wagner
Art Director - Matthew Alford
VP of Production & Manufacturing - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

A TOKYOPOP® Manga
TOKYOPOP® is an imprint of Mixx Entertainment, Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90036

©2000 Yazawa Manga Seisakusho, All Rights Reserved. First published in Japan in 2000 by Shodensha, Inc., Tokyo, Japan. English publication rights arranged through Shodensha, Inc.

English text © 2003 by Mixx Entertainment, Inc.
TOKYOPOP is a registered trademark of Mixx Entertainment, Inc.

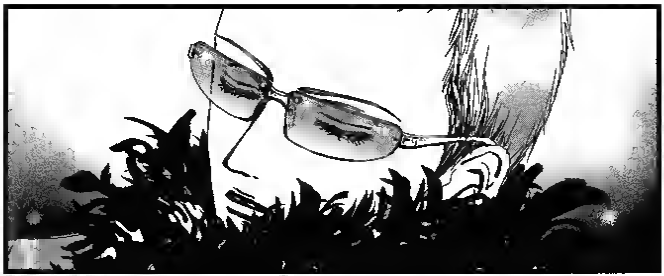
All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 1-59182-108-8

First TOKYOPOP® printing: January 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA



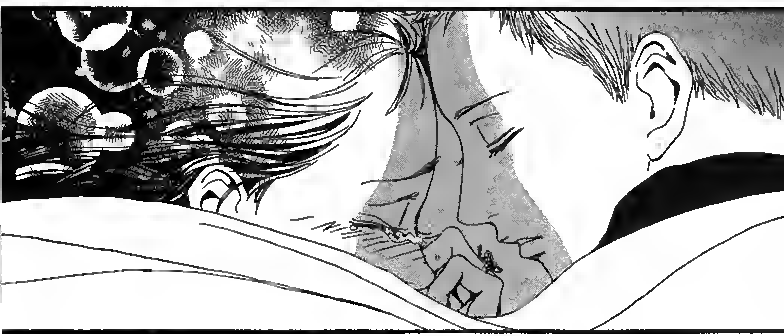
• Contents •

STAGE 31 9
STAGE 32 25
STAGE 33 43
STAGE 34 64
STAGE 35 87
STAGE 36 111
STAGE 37 135
STAGE 38 153

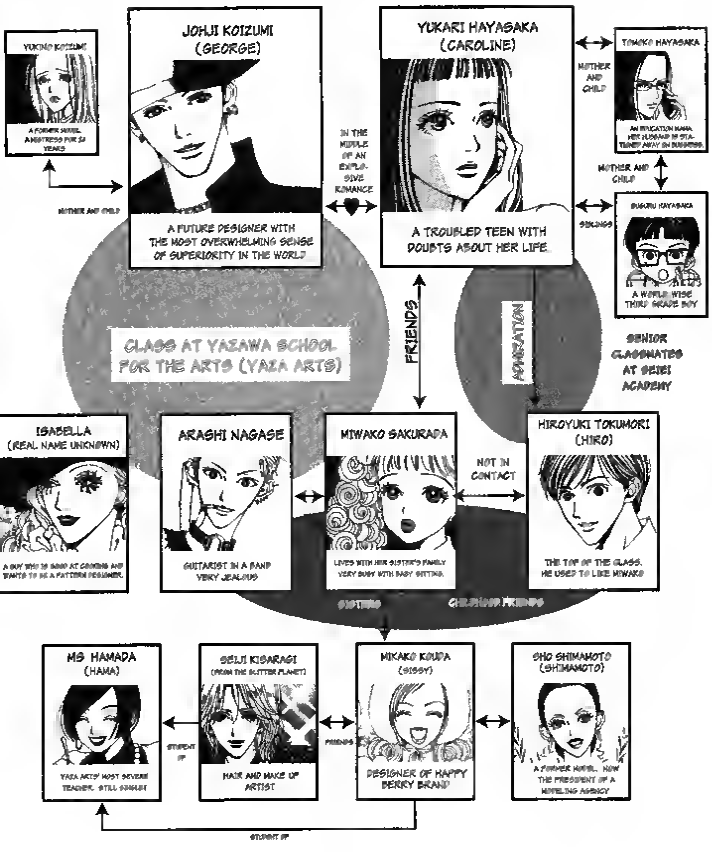
WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

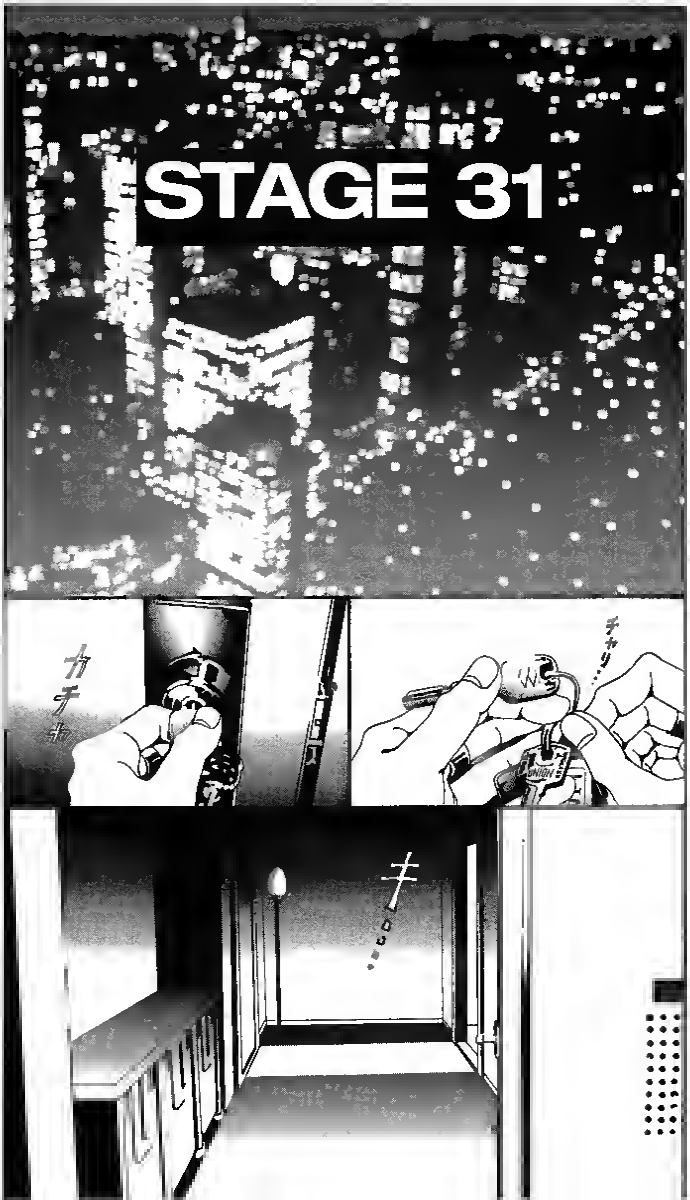
It turns out that Yukari is a natural when it comes to modeling. In no time, her career has taken off, and soon she's fielding offers from bigtime modeling agencies. But she soon discovers she needs her parents' consent before anyone can represent her. Yeah, like that's ever going to happen! When Yukari asks the love of her life, George, for some professional guidance, he gives her grief—not answers. Does this guy even know the meaning of love? Yukari is beginning to wonder if he's worth her time—or her devotion.

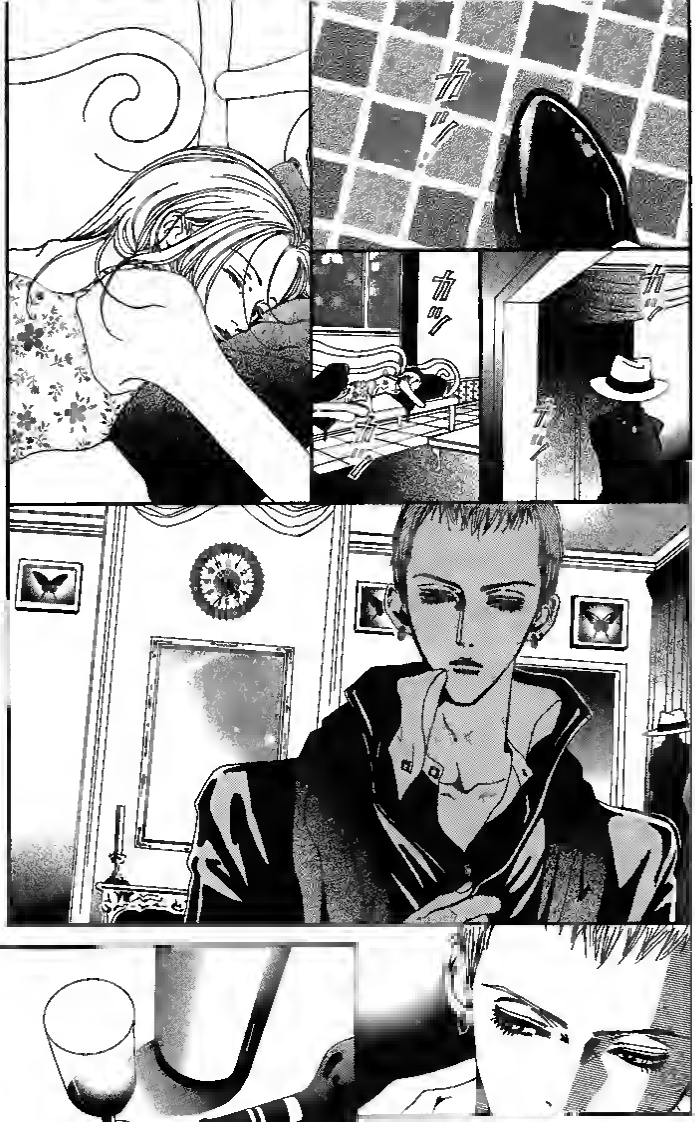
STAGE REVIEW



MAIN CHARACTERS


YUKINO KOIZUMI
A FORMER MODEL. A MISTRESS FOR 30 YEARS
MOTHER AND CHILD
JOHJI KOIZUMI (GEORGE)
A FUTURE DESIGNER WITH THE MOST OVERWHELMING SENSE OF SUPERIORITY IN THE WORLD
IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXPLOSIVE ROMANCE
YUKARI HAYASAKA (CAROLINE)
A TROUBLED TEEN WITH DOUBTS ABOUT HER LIFE
MOTHER AND CHILD
TOMOKO HAYASAKA
AN EDUCATION MAMA. HER HUSBAND IS STATIONED AWAY ON BUSINESS
MOTHER AND CHILD
SIBLINGS
SUGURU HAYASAKA
A WORLD WISE THIRD GRADE BOY
CLASS AT YAZAWA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (YAZA ARTS)
FRIENDS
ROMANTIC
SENIOR CLASSMATES AT SEIEI ACADEMY
ISABELLA (REAL NAME UNKNOWN)
A GUY WHO IS GOOD AT COOKING AND WANTS TO BE A PATTERN DESIGNER.
ARASHI NAGASE
GUITARIST IN A BAND VERY JEALOUS
MIWAKO SAKURADA
LIVES WITH HER SISTER'S FAMILY VERY BUSY WITH BABY SITTING
NOT IN CONTACT
HIROYUKI TOKUMORI (HIRO)
THE TOP OF THE CLASS. HE USED TO LIKE MIWAKO
SISTERS
GIRLFRIEND FRIENDS
MS HAMADA (HAMA)
YAZA MOST SEVERE TEACHER. STILL SINGLE!
STUDENT OF
SEIJI KISARAGI (FROM THE BUTTER PLANET)
HAIR AND MAKE UP ARTIST
FRIENDS
MIKAKO KOUDA (SISSY)
DESIGNER OF HAPPY BERRY BRAND
SHO SHIMAMOTO (SHIMAMOTO)
A FORMER MODEL. NOW THE PRESIDENT OF A MODELING AGENCY
STUDENT OF


STAGE 31
カチャ
チャリ…
キョロ…

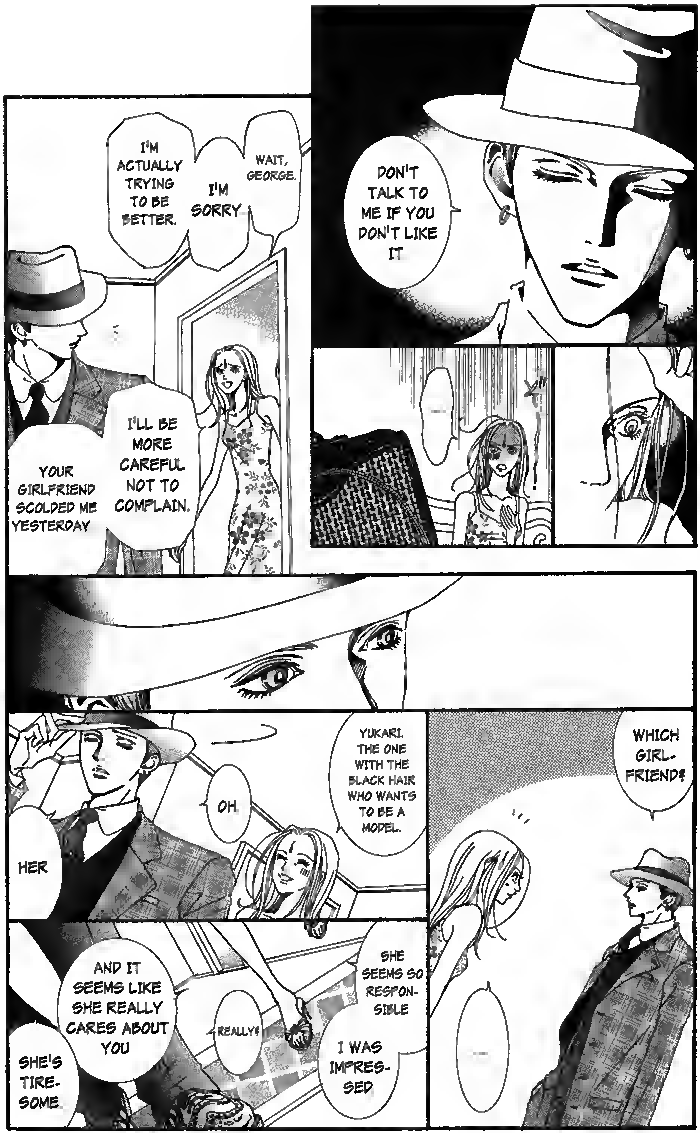

カツ
カツ
カツ
カツ

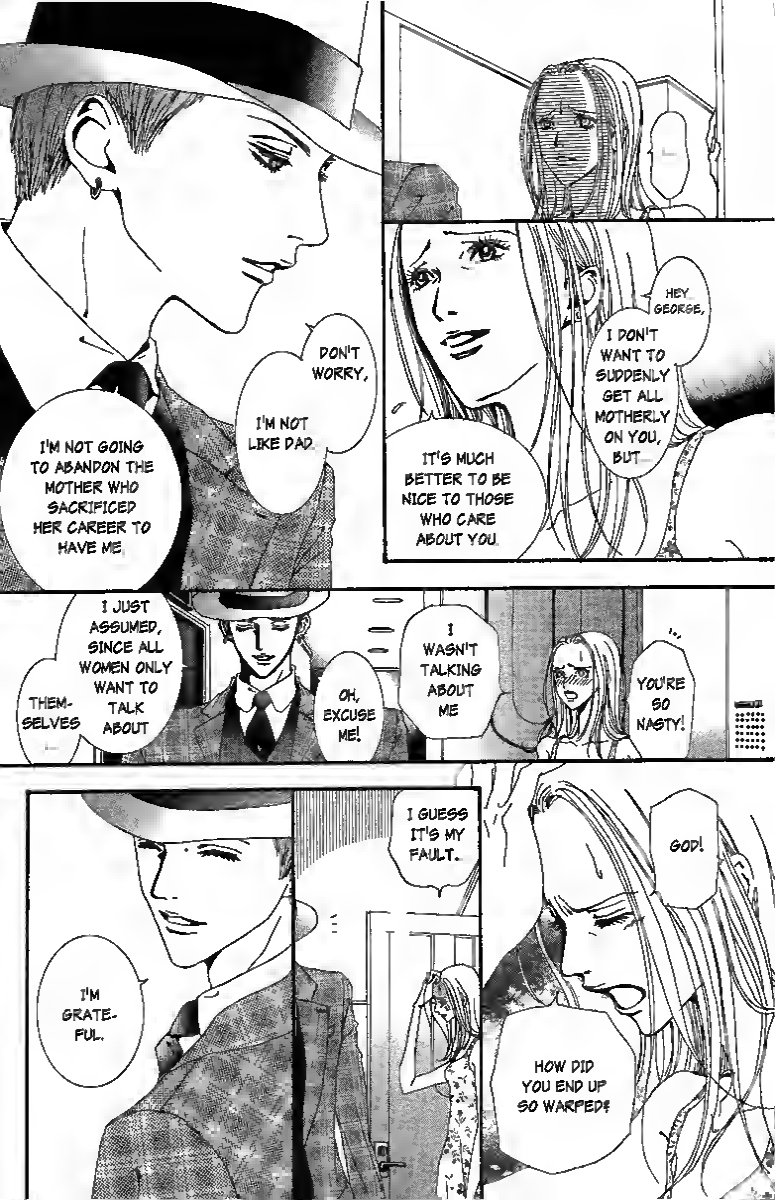
I WAS TIRED, BUT COULDN'T SLEEP.
...AND FINALLY WENT TO BED AT DAYBREAK.
THAT NIGHT I STUDIED FOR THE LAST TWO TESTS I HAD...
WELL, I GUESS IT HASN'T EVEN TECHNICALLY BEEN A FULL SIX DAYS.
IT HAD ONLY BEEN SIX DAYS SINCE I LEFT.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CHECKED,
I FELT LIKE I HADN'T BEEN BACK IN MY ROOM FOR MONTHS.
WHEN GEORGE SLEPT,
HE NEVER ONCE TURNED HIS BACK TOWARDS ME,
WHICH MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.
IT'S BECOME A HABIT TO LAY SIDEWAYS AND FACE TOWARDS THE LEFT.
EVEN THOUGH I ONLY SPENT THREE DAYS IN GEORGE'S ROOM,

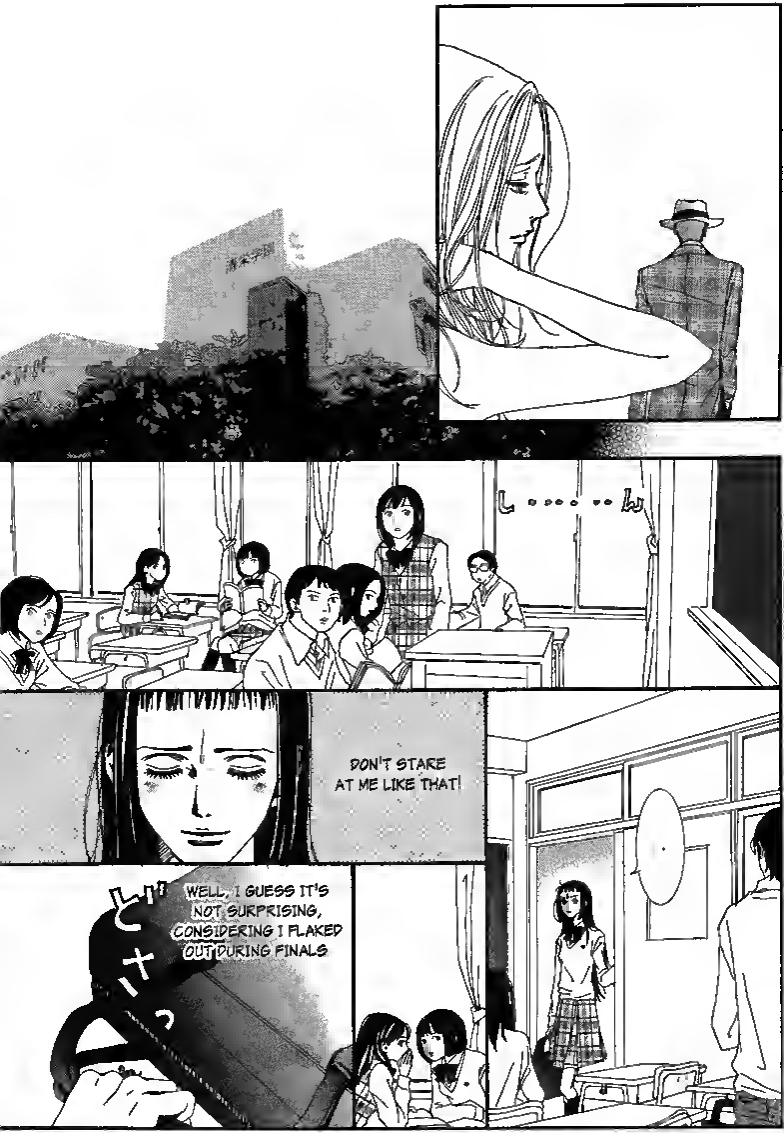
AM I GOING TO CRY EVERY NIGHT NOW BECAUSE I MISS GEORGE?
AFTER HE HUMILIATED ME, WHY DO I STILL LIKE HIM SO MUCH?
THERE'S SERIOUSLY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME!
I THOUGHT YESTERDAY THAT IF YOU FELT SLEEPING WITH ME
WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BECOMING A MODEL, THEN YOU WERE A STUPID GIRL!
JUST LIKE YOU SAID,
I'M BRATTY AND I'M A FOOL!

YET YOU TRY EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO CONTROL ME AND MOLD ME INTO YOUR IDEAL WOMAN.
BUT YOU'RE JUST AS FOOLISH, GEORGE! YOU WANT A WOMAN WHO SUBMITS TO NO ONE,
YOUR WANTS AND DESIRES ARE WARPED
I GUESS WE'RE BOTH A BIT WEIRD.

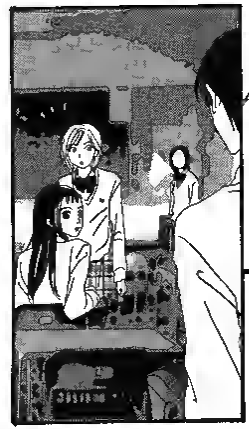
GOOD MORNING, MS. YUKINO.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD SLEEPING OUT HERE.
I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT!
GEORGE!
YOU SCARED ME.
HEY, THAT'S MY LINE!
SITTING HERE LISTENING TO YOU, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK HOW MUCH YOU REMIND ME OF YOUR FATHER WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER. YOU NOT ONLY SOUND LIKE HIM
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME INTO MY ROOM LIKE THAT. EVER HEARD OF A LITTLE SOMETHING CALLED PRIVACY!
BUT YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM, TOO
I MEAN, EVEN IF YOU ARE MY MOTHER...
OH, WAS DAD THIS GOOD-LOOKING?
STOP IT.
EVEN YOUR EXCESSIVE EGOTISM REMINDS ME OF HIM.
IT DRIVES ME CRAZY!


DON'T TALK TO ME IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT
WAIT, GEORGE.
I'M SORRY
I'M ACTUALLY TRYING TO BE BETTER.
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL NOT TO COMPLAIN.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND SCOLDED ME YESTERDAY
WHICH GIRL-FRIEND?
YUKARI. THE ONE WITH THE BLACK HAIR WHO WANTS TO BE A MODEL.
OH.
HER
SHE SEEMS SO RESPON-SIBLE
I WAS IMPRES-SED
REALLY?
AND IT SEEMS LIKE SHE REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU
SHE'S TIRE-SOME.


HEY GEORGE,
I DON'T WANT TO SUDDENLY GET ALL MOTHERLY ON YOU, BUT...
IT'S MUCH BETTER TO BE NICE TO THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU.
DON'T WORRY,
I'M NOT LIKE DAD.
I'M NOT GOING TO ABANDON THE MOTHER WHO SACRIFICED HER CAREER TO HAVE ME.
...
YOU'RE SO NASTY!
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT ME
OH, EXCUSE ME!
I JUST ASSUMED, SINCE ALL WOMEN ONLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEM-SELVES...
GOD!
I GUESS IT'S MY FAULT.
HOW DID YOU END UP SO WARPED?
I'M GRATE-FUL.


DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT!
WELL, I GUESS IT'S NOT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING I FLAKED OUT DURING FINALS

OH, THAT'S GOOD
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST STAYED HOME ONE MORE DAY
BUT TODAY'S THE LAST DAY OF TESTING
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YEAH
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S FINALS WEEK
THE SEATING CHART!
HAYASAKA, THAT'S NOT YOUR SEAT!
I THOUGHT YOU RAN OFF WITH SOME GUY OR SOMETHING I WAS PRETTY IMPRESSED...
YOU REALLY JUST HAD A COLD?
OH,
NO WONDER HE'S FRIENDS WITH HIRO
FONISHI
WHAT A CUTE GUY TO MEET UP

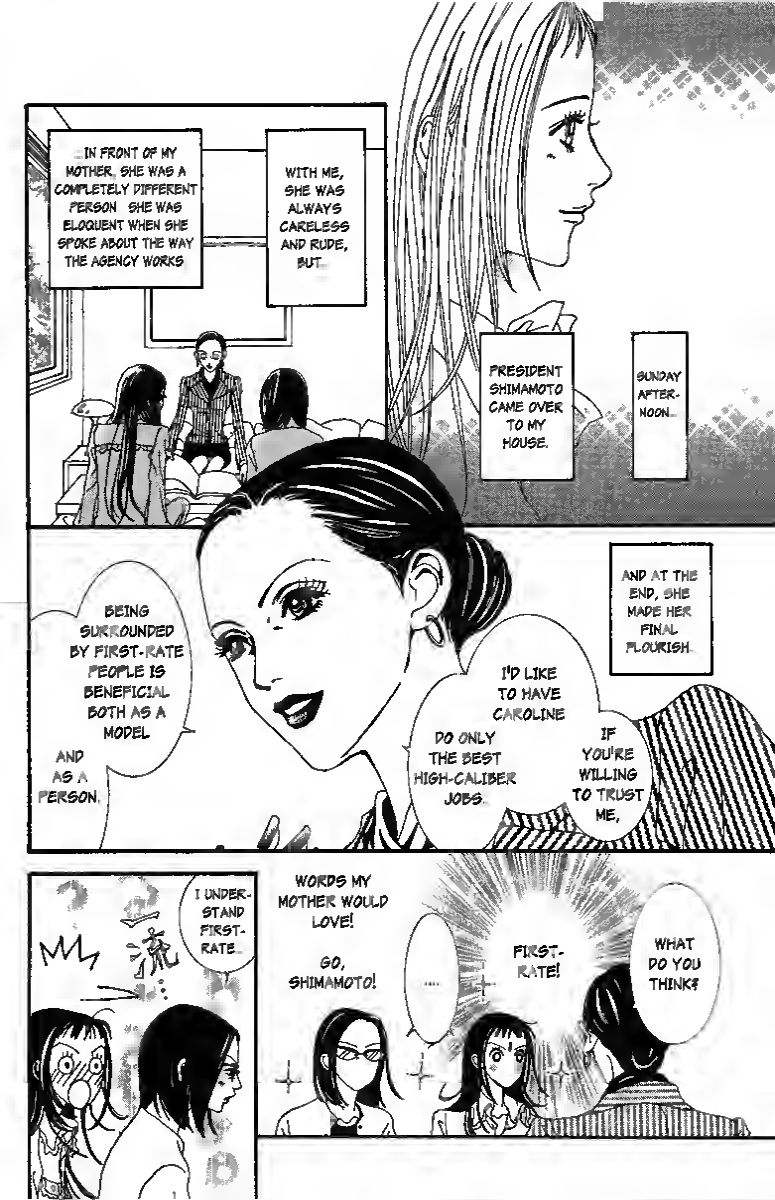


I GUESS THAT SORT OF STUFF DOESN'T HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE
HOW BORING!
RAN OFF WITH SOME GUY...
HAYASAKA!

THANKS TO YOU!
OH...
YOUR COLD...
IS BETTER?
MORNING HIROYUKI
YOU MUST BE HAPPY, HIRO. ♡
HEY,
I KNOW YOU JUST GOT HERE,
BUT COULD YOU TEACH ME SOME MATH TRICKS?
NO,
BUT ..
MY PATHETIC CALCULATION SKILLS CAN'T CUT IT
OKAY.
BUT THERE ARE NO TRICKS TO MATH, I GUESS...
TO SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO WORRIED ABOUT ME
AND...
REMEMBER THIS FORMULA.
THIS WILL DEFINITELY BE ON THERE
HMM HMM

Money
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I SLACKED OFF ALL SEMESTER, BUT IT'S REALLY HIT ME!
EITHER WAY, I THINK THIS'LL END UP BEING ANOTHER MAKEUP TEST
I'M BEAT!
WELL,
FOR THE DAYS I WAS OUT, THEY START NEXT WEEK. THREE SUBJECTS EACH.
WHEN'S THE MAKEUP?
I HATE MATH, ANY WAY
I'M EVEN GIVING UP ON PUBLIC SCHOOL. I MEAN,
BUT EVEN IF I DO, I'M GOING TO SHOOT FOR SOMEWHERE I CAN HANDLE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M GOING TO STUDY FOR COLLEGE OR NOT.
I'M QUITTING THE STUDY SESSIONS.
YOU WON'T MAKE IT TO THE STUDY SESSIONS.
THREE SUB-JECTS?
ACTUALLY, I ALREADY HAD ONE
BETWEEN YESTER-DAY AND TODAY...
WHAT? YOU FOUND A MODELING AGENCY?
BUT I NEEDED MY PARENTS' CONSENT TO JOIN
HM
OH, I SEE
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO KEEP MY AFTER-SCHOOL HOURS AND WEEKENDS OPEN FOR WORK
AND
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO START LOOKING FOR REAL MODELING WORK

I DON'T THINK I SHOULD, BUT...
YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD?
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY PUSH YOURSELF TO STUDY FOR COLLEGE?
IT'S FUNNY
ONCE MY PARENTS SAID THEY WOULD LEAVE IT UP TO ME WHETHER I STUDY FOR COLLEGE OR NOT,
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MAYBE GOING TO COLLEGE
THAT WAS THE REASON I'VE BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL THIS WHOLE TIME.
HA HA HA HA!
I KNOW IT'S RIDICULOUS
I GUESS I'M JUST A BRAT WANTING TO REBEL AGAINST MY PARENTS
NO...
I FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND
BEING FORCED TO DO SOMETHING AND DOING SOMETHING OF YOUR OWN WILL ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS
I THINK IF YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE, IT WON'T BE A WASTE
EVEN IF YOU WANT TO BE A MODEL, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT WILL GO WELL.
YOU NEED SOME SORT OF BACK-UP PLAN.


SUNDAY AFTER-NOON...
PRESIDENT SHIMAMOTO CAME OVER TO MY HOUSE.
WITH ME, SHE WAS ALWAYS CARELESS AND RUDE, BUT...
...IN FRONT OF MY MOTHER, SHE WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON. SHE WAS ELOQUENT WHEN SHE SPOKE ABOUT THE WAY THE AGENCY WORKS.
AND AT THE END, SHE MADE HER FINAL FLOURISH.
I'D LIKE TO HAVE CAROLINE DO ONLY THE BEST HIGH-CALIBER JOBS.
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TRUST ME,
BEING SURROUNDED BY FIRST-RATE PEOPLE IS BENEFICIAL BOTH AS A MODEL AND AS A PERSON.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
FIRST-RATE!
.....
WORDS MY MOTHER WOULD LOVE!
GO, SHIMAMOTO!
I UNDER-STAND FIRST-RATE...
流

I'LL DISCUSS WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT TODAY WITH MY HUSBAND...
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU SOON
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE DAD STOPPED COMING HOME!
HE'S ALWAYS MAKING UP THE SAME EXCUSES... LIKE HE HAS TO ENTERTAIN CLIENTS
DAD WOULD PROBABLY SAY I SHOULD DO WHAT I WANT...
ME, DAD, AND EVEN SUGURU ARE FED UP WITH OUR MOTHER'S STUBBORN, VAIN AND HYSTERICAL PERSONALITY
BUT MAYBE MOTHER WAS MORE TIRED OF THAT PERSONALITY THAN ANYONE.
MY PERSONALITY IS UNFORTUNATELY A BIT LIKE HERS SO I SHOULD KNOW...
IF I BECOME A FIRST-RATE MODEL,
MAYBE I'LL BE A LITTLE SWEETER TO MY MOTHER
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU WITH THE DISHES? ♡

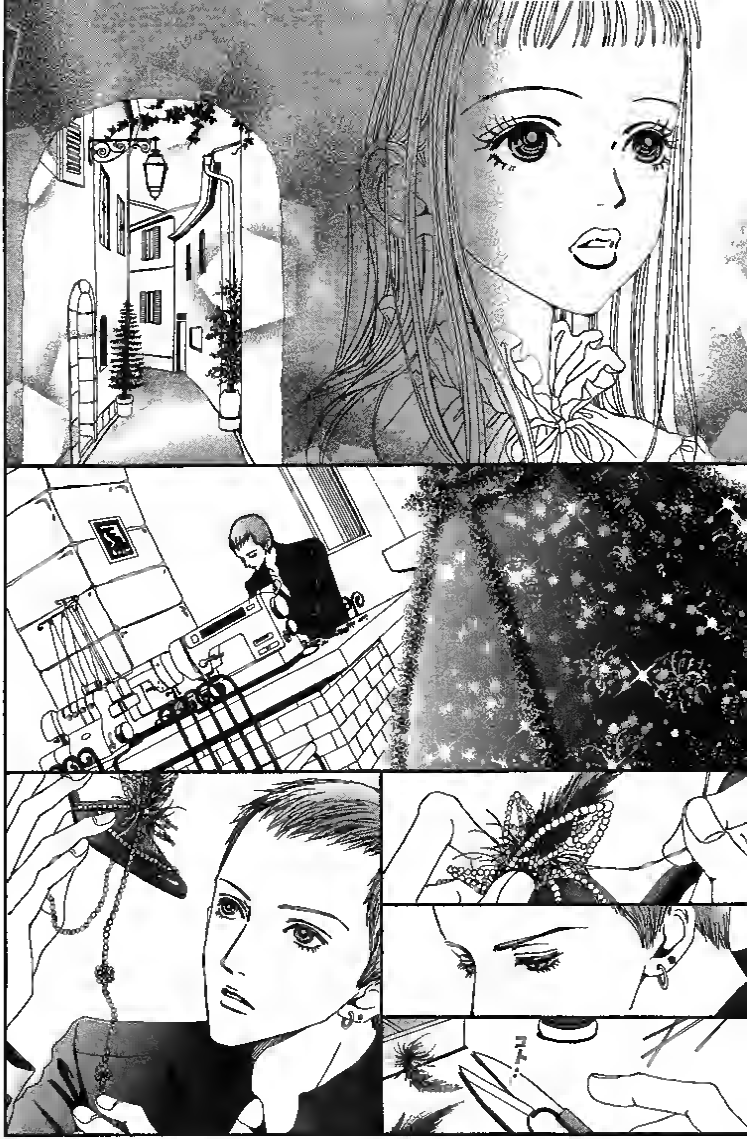
IN ANY CASE, FOR NOW...
IF YOU WANT TO GET ON MY GOOD SIDE, TRY DOING WELL ON YOUR MAKEUP EXAMS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST STUDY.
I WASN'T TRYING TO GET ON YOUR GOOD SIDE.
I THOUGHT WE COULD DO IT TOGETHER.
...
SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP ON EVERYTHING I SLACKED OFF.
I'M A FAILURE AS A DAUGHTER AND A SEMI-FAILURE AS A STUDENT.
I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT, ANYWAY.

STAGE 32

BEEP BEEP BEEP
ピピピ
ピピピ
BEEP BEEP BEEP
ピピピ
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
ピピピ
....
BEEP BEEP BEEP
ピピピ

カリカリ
WHERE'S PAPA?
I WASN'T!
I'VE BEEN COOPED UP AT THE STUDIO IN PREPARATION FOR THE SHOW!
YOU WERE JUST STAYING OVER AT ARASHI'S, WEREN'T YOU?
IT'S EVERY DAY LATELY
IT'S ENOUGH ALREADY!
DON'T SAY IT!
IT STARTS ON FRIDAY RIGHT, MIWAKO?
OH YEAH, WHEN'S THE SHOW?
THURSDAY!
WHAT DAY IS TODAY?
YOU'RE NOT FINISHED YET?
TSUTOMU IS SO LUCKY!
SO LET'S LET HIM SLEEP
HE CAME HOME FROM WORK AT DAWN,
I GOT HOME AROUND DAWN, TOO

THE SHOW IS TOMORROW
BUT THE SENIOR SHOW IS THE DAY AFTER
WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG TO MAKE A DRESS WHEN YOU HAVE FOUR PEOPLE!
MAMA! MIWA WAS WORKING HARD.
BUT JOSEPHINE SPILLED HER BEADS!
THE DRESS IS PRETTY MUCH FINISHED.
BUT THE TIARA, NECKLACE AND THE SHOES AREN'T...
OH, WELL,
AT LEAST THE DRESS IS FINISHED
GEORGE DOESN'T WANT IT TO BE HALF-ASSED!
I UNDER-STAND WHERE HE'S COMING FROM
THAT'S FINE FOR NOW,
BUT YOU CAN'T BE SUCH A PERFECTIONIST IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE DESIGNING READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHES.
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!


コト…

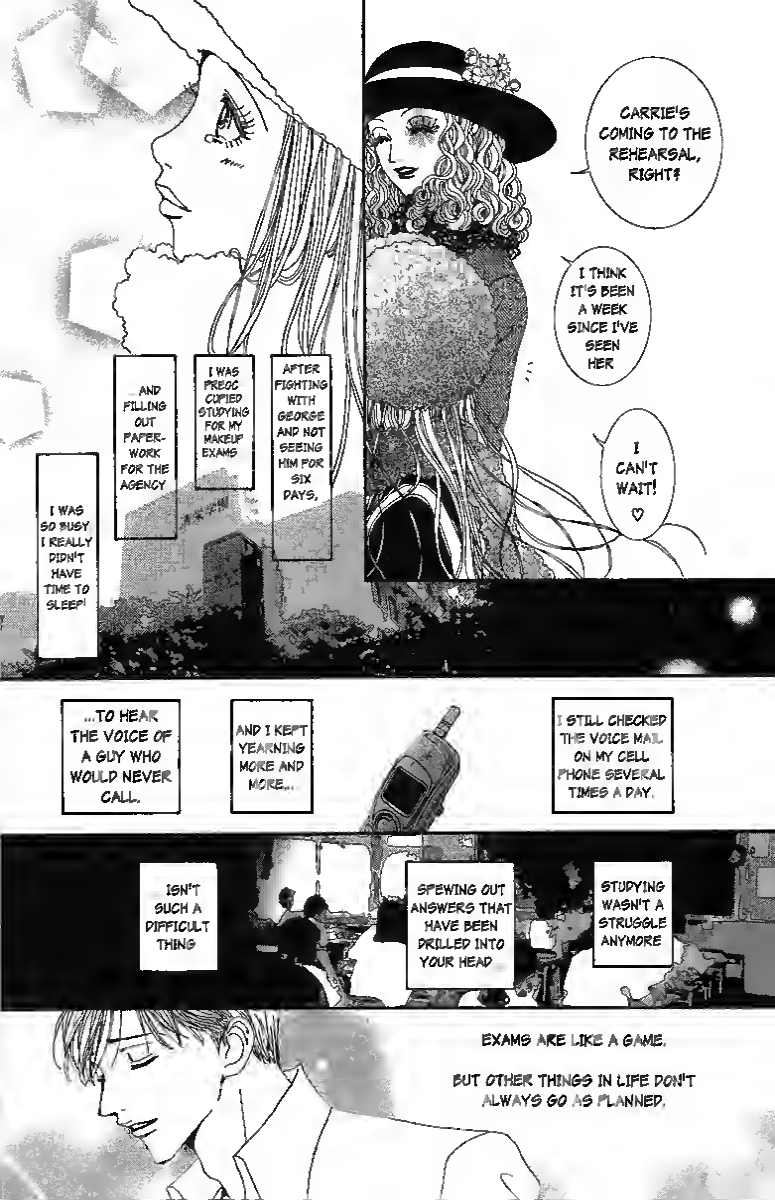
MIKAKO SAID THAT?
WOW!
WELL...
...I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO WORK
YEAH
WHY WON'T YOU MAKE IT IF YOU'RE A PERFECTIONIST?

THERE'S PROBABLY A ZILLION THINGS THAT WON'T GO YOUR WAY, EVEN IF YOUR IDEAS AND INTENTIONS ARE GOOD.
...AND LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE TO WEAR THE CLOTHES
...AND YOU HAVE TO HAVE A LOT OF EMPLOYEES...
...YOU HAVE TO MAKE A LOT OF CLOTHES...
I GUESS SO.
SO GEORGE WILL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
BUT SHE'S SUCCESSFUL,
BUT, THE WAY I SEE IT, MIKAKO IS A PERFECTIONIST, TOO.
THOSE ARE SOME LOFTY WORDS... ESPECIALLY AFTER CUTTING CLASS, MR. NAGASE!
ピュウウ
GEORGE IS AN IDEALIST AND A PERFECTIONIST.
IF HE WANTS TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS, HE NEEDS TO BE MORE REALISTIC.
IT'S NOT SHOW BUSINESS HE'S GOING INTO!
...

WHAT'S THIS? MS SAKURADA?
がしっ
ばばばば
WELL..
IT'S A TIARA TO MATCH THE DRESS FOR THE SHOW.
WOW.
IT'S PRETTY.
IT'S ALMOST FINISHED, TOO.
TOO BAD!

MS HAMADA!
...
I'M CONFISCATING IT!
CONFISCATION BAG
YES, I CAN!
IF YOU'RE WORKING ON PROJECTS DURING CLASS TIME, IT'S CONFISCATED, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR REASONS ARE!
YOU'VE BEEN AT YAZAWA FOR THREE YEARS. YOU SHOULD KNOW AT LEAST THAT MUCH!
MS HAMADA, WE'RE VERY SORRY
BUT IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO FINISH IN THE TIME WE HAVE AFTER SCHOOL, SO WE RELUCTANTLY...
PLEASE HAVE MERCY...
DON'T KID YOURSELF
MR KOIZUMI'S BEEN OUT SINCE YESTERDAY FOR THE SAME REASON RIGHT?
IF YOU CAN'T FINISH YOUR WORK IN THE TIME ALLOTTED, DON'T PARTICIPATE IN THE SHOW!
AND WHAT WERE YOU MAKING? MR. YAMAMOTO?
YAMAMOTO
OH, I WASN'T REALLY...
HAND IT OVER!
NOOOO!
HEY!
NAGASE!

COME BACK HERE!
わあああん
IT'S ALRIGHT, MIWAKO DON'T CRY
ARASHI WILL PROTECT THE NECK-LACE FOR US
BUT THE TIARA!
WE STILL HAVE TWO DAYS
WE HAVE TO START OVER FROM SCRATCH!
TWO DAYS ISN'T ENOUGH!
THERE'S NO WAY!
CALM DOWN
LET'S DISCUSS IT WHEN GEORGE GETS HERE
WE HAVE OUR REHEARSAL THIS AFTER-NOON, SO HE'LL PROBABLY BE ARRIVING SOON
IF THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE CASE I SHOULD'VE JUST CUT SCHOOL AND WORKED AT THE STUDIO ALL DAY
DON'T THINK LIKE THAT
HANA'S A MONSTER!
IT'S OUR FAULT FOR NOT FOLLOW-ING THE RULES
LET'S REPENT AND GO TO CLASS AND WORK HARD DURING THE TIME WE HAVE.


CARRIE'S COMING TO THE REHEARSAL, RIGHT?
I THINK IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I'VE SEEN HER
I CAN'T WAIT! ♡
AFTER FIGHTING WITH GEORGE AND NOT SEEING HIM FOR SIX DAYS,
I WAS FREAK CUPIED STUDYING FOR MY MAKEUP EXAMS
...AND FILLING OUT PAPER-WORK FOR THE AGENCY
I WAS SO BUSY I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SLEEP!
...TO HEAR THE VOICE OF A GUY WHO WOULD NEVER CALL.
AND I KEPT YEARNING MORE AND MORE...
I STILL CHECKED THE VOICE MAIL ON MY CELL PHONE SEVERAL TIMES A DAY.
...ISN'T SUCH A DIFFICULT THING
SPEWING OUT ANSWERS THAT HAVE BEEN DRILLED INTO YOUR HEAD
STUDYING WASN'T A STRUGGLE ANYMORE
EXAMS ARE LIKE A GAME.
BUT OTHER THINGS IN LIFE DON'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED.

...MAKE TOTAL SENSE NOW.
THOSE WORDS THAT WERE INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO ME BEFORE...
I'LL GO HOME AND SLEEP.
NO, I'LL BE FINE.
YOU STILL LOOK PALE
EVEN IF YOU LEAVE EARLY, WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP A LITTLE MORE FIRST?
OH, TAKE OUT THE THERMOMETER!
MS. HAYASAKA,
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A FEVER.
101 DEGREES
FOURTH PERIOD JUST ENDED.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
MAYBE I'M SICK FROM MY LACK OF SLEEP AND LACK OF APPETITE...
YES I'M SORRY
STUDYING IS GOOD, BUT YOUR HEALTH IS MORE IMPORTANT.
AND THAT YOU PROBABLY JUST DID TOO MUCH RIGHT AFTER BEING SICK
YOUR TEACHER MENTIONED EARLIER THAT YOUR MAKEUP EXAMS WENT WELL,
ANYWAY, I WASN'T SICK.

BUT NOW I CAN GO TO REHEARSAL WITHOUT WORRYING
DEEP BREATHE
パタン
CAROLINE!
CAN YOU GET UP?
YOU DIDN'T COME TO FOURTH PERIOD, SO I THOUGHT YOU HAD HEADED OVER TO YAZAWA ALREADY
THEN I HEARD THAT YOU COLLAPSED DURING GYM CLASS
YOU SCARED ME!
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS MAKING ME WORRY?
NO,
I DIDN'T COLLAPSE
I WAS JUST FEELING A LITTLE FAINT.
I'M FINE NOW!
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ALRIGHT
EITHER WAY, YOU'RE LEAVING EARLY TODAY, RIGHT?
I BROUGHT YOUR BAG.
THANKS!
ARE YOU GOING TO REHEARSAL?
OF COURSE.
DO YOU DEFINITELY HAVE TO GO?
YES.

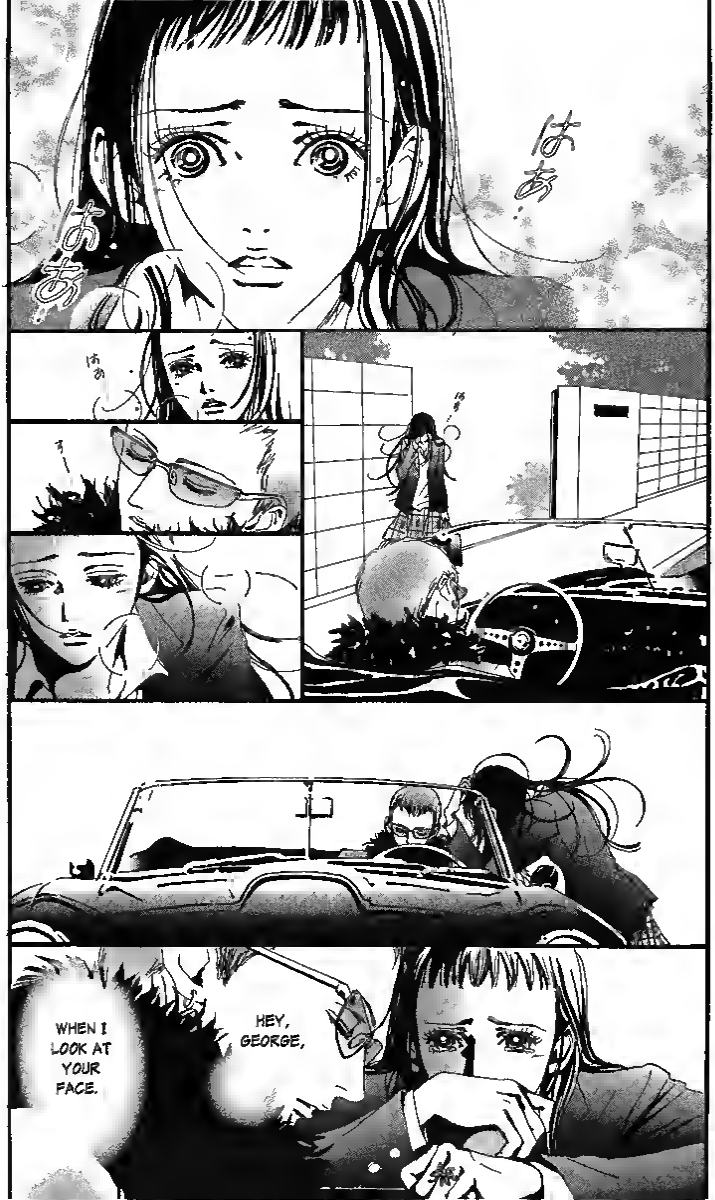
MIWAKO AND THE OTHERS KNOW THAT YOU CAME BACK TO SCHOOL, DON'T THEY?
BUT EVEN WITHOUT YOU BEING SICK, TO CALL ON A REGULAR STUDENT DURING A SCHOOL DAY IS PRETTY TYRANNICAL OF YAZAWA...
I CAN'T RELAX UNLESS I GO
AND I SAID I WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THEM WHEN I AGREED TO DO THAT.
TODAY'S FOR CHECKING THE MUSIC AND LIGHTING, SO MIWAKO SAID THAT THEY COULD USE A SUB, BUT...
THERE'S A REHEARSAL ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW, TOO
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
JUST LET ME GO!
DON'T STOP ME!
I'M FINE!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF NOW AND REALLY COLLAPSE DURING THE REAL THING?
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING STRONG-WILLED AND OBSTINATE
BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF, OKAY?
I KNOW YOU'RE STUBBORN
BUT YOU WOULD GO EVEN IF I TRIED TO STOP YOU RIGHT?
I WON'T STOP YOU
.....

GEORGE IS LIKE A SPOILED CHILD,
EVEN THOUGH HE TRIES TO ACT LIKE A BIG SHOT
I REALLY DO LIKE HIRO.
WHEN I TALK TO HIM, I FEEL LIKE HE OPENS MY EYES
HE PLAYS WITH PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
HE SCREWS WITH THEM,
THROWS THEM AROUND,
AND INFLICTS GREAT PAIN
WHEN I'M WITH HIM, I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO BREAK INTO A THOUSAND PIECES
I'M A MESS!

...OR MORE
BUT WHEN I'M NOT WITH HIM, I'M SO LONELY, I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO BREAK INTO A MILLION PIECES...

I'LL BE A SUPERWOMAN!

STAGE 33


はあ
はあ
はあ
すー
はぁ
HEY, GEORGE,
WHEN I LOOK AT YOUR FACE.

...I WANT TO HIT YOU AND KISS YOU AT THE SAME TIME
I WISH YOUR CONTRADIC-TIONS...
MY EMOTIONS SEEM TO CONTRADICT EACH OTHER,
BUT THEY COME FROM THE SAME PLACE IN MY HEART.
I STILL LIKE YOU.
...WOULD MEAN THE SAME THING.
ルルル
プルルル

YES?
GEORGE?
YEAH, ISABELLA?
I'M GLAD I GOT THROUGH
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
WHAT?
I'M HEADING OVER THERE NOW.
HEY!
HUH?!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, GEORGE?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
WHAT?
HELLO?
YOU'RE BURNING UP.
YOU LOOK PALE
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHIT...
I'M DIZZY FROM RUNNING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
...
I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER.
ISABELLA!
I'M HANGING UP.
WHAT?
WHAT GOT CONFISCATED?
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!
I COULDN'T SLEEP
EVERYTHING'S GETTING DARK.
I CAN'T FUNCTION WITHOUT GEORGE'S HANDS AND HIS SMELL.
I COULDN'T EVEN EAT.

... WHEN ALL I WANT IS FOR HIM TO LOVE ME.
I'D BE FINE NOT TO SEE HIM FOR A WHILE.
I'M SUCH A FOOL!

...
WHERE
THE HOSPITAL
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
YOU LOST CONSCIOUSNESS ON STAGE
LIAR!
IT WAS IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL!
OH, YOU REMEMBER.
I WAS ALL EXCITED ABOUT MY STORY.
WHAT ABOUT THE REHEARSAL?
WE HAVE TO GO!

I'M SOR... REAL-LY...!
LIAR!
THEY'RE PROBABLY FINISHED BY NOW.
BUT IT'S ALREADY AFTER FIVE.
MIWAKO WAS EXCITED ABOUT BEING THE MODEL FOR TODAY
ARASHI AND ISABELLA CAN TAKE CARE OF THE CHECKS FOR NOW.
WE HAVE A REHEARSAL THAT DAY TOO, SO DON'T WORRY.
..
I WAS WORRIED, THOUGH.
NO ONE THINKS IT'S ANY TROUBLE.
I SAID I WOULD DO THIS WITHOUT CAUSING YOU ANY TROUBLE...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
BUT...

WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT?
YOU'RE NICE TODAY.
LIKE A REAL PERSON...
I'M ALWAYS NICE.
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
...
YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO'D GO TO REHEARSAL EVEN IF YOU HAD TO LEAVE ME DYING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD!
WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE A HERO THAT BAD?
I'M NOT THAT MUCH OF A JERK.
BUT YOU IGNORED ME FOR A WEEK AFTER CALLING ME A FOOL!
ISN'T THAT JERKY BEHAVIOR?
OR WERE YOU JUST PLAYING?
THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THIS.
BESIDES, WE BOTH IGNORED EACH OTHER
I DIDN'T...
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
I WAS THINKING ONLY ABOUT YOU ALL WEEK...
ENOUGH TO BECOME THIS WEAK...
I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU, TOO
NOT ONLY BUT...

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I LEFT MY PHONE ON FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT!
YOU DIDN'T CALL ME ONCE, EITHER
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME!
YOU'RE LYING!
YOU'RE ALL TALK!
I DON'T
WHY DO I HAVE TO MAKE THE CALL, ANYWAY?
KNOW THAT

WHY DO I HAVE TO...
...HANG ON, EVEN THOUGH I'M HURT?
AND YOU'RE JUST GOING ALONG AT YOUR OWN PACE?
IT'S SO FRUS-TRATING, I CAN'T STAND IT!
MAYBE I HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU...
RIGHT WHEN WE FIRST MET...
I COULDN'T STAND MY PHONE NOT RINGING,
SO I CALLED YOU UP

I THOUGHT THE FACT THAT WE CONNECTED ON THE FIRST CALL
WAS JUST A LUCKY COINCIDENCE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME? I WAS WAITING!
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD CALL ME

OH, MISS HAYASAKA!
DON'T BE SO SOFT.
OH,
I FEEL MUCH BETTER, THANK YOU
YOU'RE A LITTLE MALNOURISHED
AND YOU HAVE REALLY LOW BLOOD PRESSURE
YOU'RE SO THIN ARE YOU DIETING?
YOU'RE AWAKE?
I'LL TAKE OUT YOUR IV.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
NO, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIN.
I USUALLY EAT LIKE A HORSE, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OF AN APPETITE LATELY.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT HUNGRY, YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST GET YOUR NUTRITION.
THE DOCTOR SAID YOU'RE PROBABLY FEVERISH FROM EXHAUSTION
WE'LL GIVE YOU A FEVER REDUCER
AND SOMETHING FOR YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE.
IF YOU'RE FEELING ALRIGHT, YOU CAN GO HOME ARE YOU OKAY?
YES
THANK YOU
DO YOU HAVE YOUR INSURANCE CARD?
YES
DROP BY THE PHARMACY WINDOW TO PICK UP YOUR MEDICINE
TAKE CARE.

I KNEW YOU WOULD SAY SOMETHING PERVERTED!
THE NURSE WAS PRETTY
I'LL COME HERE IF I HAVE TO GET AN INJECTION... OR GIVE ONE.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SILLY?
I'LL DRIVE YOU
HEY, GEORGE.
I'M OKAY NOW, SO I CAN TAKE THE TRAIN.
THE DRESS IS PRETTY MUCH FINISHED.
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE STUDIO TO WORK?
BUT THE DRESS ISN'T FINISHED, IS IT?
DID YOU LOSE WEIGHT?
I WANNA SEE IT! I WANNA WEAR IT!
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS ME
IT IS!

BUT FOR THIS TO COME AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
YEAH, ARASHI.
CAROLINE'S SICK. GIVE HER A BREAK!
DON'T WORRY, CARRIE. IT'S EASY TO TAKE IT IN A LITTLE BIT.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
EAT, DAMMIT!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS? WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
OH, GEORGE, YOU DIDN'T TELL HER?
WHAT?
NO.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
THE HARSHNESS OF THIS WORLD REALLY HIT ME...
WHAAAT!?
AND SHE CALLED ME BY MY REAL NAME!
SHE COULD HAVE AT LEAST CALLED YOU MA TSUKI, BUT!
HAMA IS SUCH A MONSTER!
OUR TEACHER CONFISCATED THE NECKLACE AND TIARA WE WERE FINISHING UP IN CLASS TODAY.

LET'S FREAK OUT MORE, EVERYONE!
HEY!
WHAT IS ISABELLA'S GIVEN NAME?
I'M GLAD SHE DIDN'T CALL ME BY MY GIVEN NAME...
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
MORE THAN A MONSTER. SHE'S A SADIST!
SHE'S PROBABLY LAUGHING ABOUT IT NOW. DAMMIT!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
OHMI-GOSH,
I'M A FAN OF MINIMALISM. IT'S A MATTER OF PRIDE.
"SIMPLE" IS NOT IN MY VOCABU-LARY!
HOW COULD IT BE NICE?
THE DRESS ITSELF IS PRETTY FLASHY
THEN YOU'RE GOING WITH NOTHING!
I GUESS THAT WOULD BE NICE AND SIMPLE.
BUT EVEN IF WE RUSH AND MAKE THEM NOW, IT WON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH
IT'D BE BETTER TO HAVE NOTHING!
NO, NOTHING!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I SEE HIM IN A NEW LIGHT.
I THOUGHT HE WOULD KILL US FOR SURE!
GEORGE IS SO RELIABLE. ♡
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING KILLED IF IT WAS BY GEORGE! ♡
YOU DON'T?!
BUT...
YOU SAID ON THE PHONE NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT AND TO LEAVE IT UP TO YOU!
YOU WERE FULLY CONFIDENT!
THAT'S WHY WE WERE RELIEVED
I'M A GENIUS
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.
IS HE NUTS?!
THAT'S WHAT WE WERE SAYING!!!
あ
あ
あ...
WE WERE EDITED BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH PAGES
I WANT MORE LINES!
WE'RE JUST SUPPORTING CHARACTERS, ANYWAY!

THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING HAPPY GO-LUCKY...
PLEASE, JUST START WORKING
I'M REALLY OKAY NOW...
BUT YOU'RE NOT FEELING...
BUT...
I CAN WALK WITHOUT YOUR HELP, BUT THE DRESS WON'T GET FINISHED WITHOUT YOU!
HE REALLY IS A FOOL.
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ME...
STARTING TONIGHT...
...
...I THINK I CAN SLEEP ALONE AGAIN.
I'LL SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!

IF YOU WIN THE GRAND PRIZE...
CAN I KISS YOU?
WHAT?
HURRY UP AND GET TO WORK!
HE'S SERIOUS!
WHY BOTHER ASKING?
...
GOOD NIGHT!
...THEN I'LL SPOIL YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I'LL TELL YOU.
...BUT I'LL BE THE ONE GETTING SPOILED.

Yamamoto
ATTENTION: THIS IS JAPAN!
MY, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
IT'S A PERFECT DAY FOR THE FASHION SHOW.

STAGE 34

THE HEROINE

GOOD MORNING, YOUNG SIR!
YOU'RE UP EARLY TODAY
HEY, SEBASTIAN!
WHAT IS IT, YOUNG SIR?
MY NAME IS UEDA
SIR
....
THIS HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A WHILE.
CAN YOU STOP CALLING ME THAT NOW?
YOU SEE, I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE
BUT YOU DON'T LIKE TO BE CALLED BY YOUR NAME.
YOUNG MISS...
MAYBE?
WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
....

YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU TOOK CARE OF ME IN PLACE OF MY ABSENT PARENTS SINCE I WAS JUST A BABY.
I REALLY AM GRATEFUL.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT IF YOU START CALLING ME UEDA.
BUT, TO ME, YOU'RE SEBASTIAN
AND, TO ME, YOU'RE 'YOUNG SIR'
I'VE BEEN ADMONISHED BY THE MASTER AND MISSUS ABOUT WHAT SORT OF EDUCATION I GAVE YOU.
I'M SURPRISED THEY HAVEN'T FIRED ME.
BECAUSE THEY'RE ASHAMED OF ME!
THEY DON'T WANT TO BRING SOMEBODY NEW IN AND EXPOSE THEIR SHAME AT THIS POINT IN TIME
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO CAUSE YOU PAIN BECAUSE OF MY SELFISHNESS...

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
I'M VERY PROUD THAT YOU'VE TRANSFORMED FROM SUCH A TIMID YOUNG BOY...
...INTO SUCH AN ELEGANT LADY
THANK YOU, MR UEDA...
PROUD
HA HA HA!
SEBASTIAN IS FINE. MORE IMPORTANTLY,
THE ROSES THAT YOU TOOK SUCH LOVING CARE OF ARE BLOOMING BEAUTIFULLY NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK IN THE YARD WHILE I PREPARE BREAKFAST?
I'M TOO EASILY MOVED TO TEARS IN THE FALL...
MY, IT'S TRUE!
THERE ARE PURE WHITE ROSES BLOOMING EVERYWHERE
IT WAS WORTH CARING FOR THEM NO MATTER HOW BUSY I WAS!

ニャキーン
シャキン
シャキン
シャキン
シャキン
……
ボトッ

I DON'T LIKE WHITE.
IT PRETENDS TO BE SO PURE AND CLEAN, BUT WILL BECOME ANY COLOR!
IT'S THE COLOR THAT SEDUCES ME THE MOST.
I CAN'T KEEP FROM TAKING IT BY FORCE.
OH, GEORGE
YOU'RE SO TROUBLING!
ATTENTION THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL IN HIGH SCH

ISABELLA,
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A REAL BLUE ROSE?
NO, GEORGE
BLUE ROSES ARE SO ELUSIVE, EVEN PROFESSIONAL BOTANISTS COULDN'T CREATE THEM.
I DID HEAR THAT SOMEONE CREATED A HYBRID A FEW YEARS BACK,
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY IN THE MARKET
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY THERE'S SPECIAL MEANING TO THE PHRASE, "BLUE ROSE"
UNLIKELY!
GEORGE...

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE A SCIENTIST.
I JUST WANT TO BE AN ILLUSIONIST WHO SHOWS PEOPLE A LIVING DREAM
THERE IS NOTHING UNLIKELY IN THE WORLD OF THEATER
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
HOW?
THIS?
A LIVE BLUE ROSE?
I DYED WHITE ROSES FROM THE STORE.
IT WAS EASY
WHAT A SCARE...
YOU ALMOST TRICKED ME!
OH, MY.
OF COURSE!
OH...
I SEE...
DON'T YOU THINK BLUE ROSES WOULD LOOK GOOD WITH THAT BLUE DRESS?

YAZAGAKU
FESTIVAL
CAROLINE!

BUT YOUR GUT BULGES!
HA HA. YOU WON'T GET FAT FROM ONE DAY OF OVEREATING
I HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GAIN WEIGHT FROM OVEREATING
YEAH. PERFECT!
HOW ARE YOU FEELINGS BETTER?
GUT!
...AND I'M VERY STUDIOUS
MY FEVER WENT DOWN
HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
DON'T LAUGH!
I ASSUMED YOU STAYED HOME
SO YOU WENT TO SCHOOL.
IF I DIDN'T HAVE SCHOOL YESTERDAY, I COULD'VE TAKEN MY TIME
THERE ARE A LOT OF BOOTHS HERE.
I WANT TO SEE THE OTHER EXHIBITS, TOO

TODAY WILL BE BUSY BECAUSE OF THE SHOW, BUT THE FAIR'S GOING ON TOMORROW. TOO YOU SHOULD COME AND SEE IT THEN
THAT'S TRUE. ♡
AND IT'S SUNDAY, TOO. ♡
IF WE WIN AT THE SHOW TODAY,
BUT...
WE'LL HAVE TO ATTEND THE AWARD CEREMONY TOMORROW WE MIGHT BE BUSY AGAIN!
"
OH REALLY?!
AN AWARD CERE-MONY
THEN I'LL BE PRAYING THAT WE'LL BE BUSY AGAIN TOMORROW!
MIWAKO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HANDS?
THEY'RE BLUE!
IS THAT THE FAD RIGHT NOW? (LIKE MEMPHIS?)

I'M GOING TO SAY THIS TO YOU TODAY
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE CLOTHES THAT PEOPLE CAN WEAR EVERY DAY
WHY DON'T YOU LAY YOUR ARTISTE AIRS TO REST?
THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH YOUR VALUE SYSTEM
CLOTHING DESIGNERS AREN'T ILLUSIONISTS WHO SELL DREAMS
I'M AN ARTISTE AT HEART
I'M NOT PUTTING ON ANY AIRS
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT WHEN I SAY PUTTING ON AIRS!
AND COULD YOU PLEASE RETIRE THIS STUPID PRINCE LOOK!
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN WITH YOU!
NOT A PRINCE A COUNT!
ARASHI,
THERE'S NO NEED TO BRING UP THIS STUFF AT A TIME LIKE THIS
IT'S OUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE FOR GETTING THE ACCESSORIES CONFISCATED

ARASHI'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH CALCIUM.
...
THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING HAPPY-GO LUCKY!
WE COULD'VE DONE THIS YESTER-DAY!
BUT DON'T MAKE US DO THIS TIRESOME SHIT ON OUR DAY OFF!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND DO YOU?
IT MEANS SOMETHING TO USE THESE ROSES THAT ISABELLA TENDED SO CAREFULLY
FAKE FLOWERS WOULD'VE BEEN FINE!
CUT FLOWERS HAVE TO BE FRESH
BUT WE WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO WILT.
I'LL HAVE TO FEED HIM SOME PICKLED FISH.
GO BUY SOME!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE THEM!
I'M JUST NOT INTO PUTTING ARTIFI-CIAL COLOR ON LIVING THINGS
THEN LET'S LEAVE THEM WHITE
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING SUCKED INTO SOMETHING BUT I DON'T CARE.
OH GEORGE
OH ARASHI
LOOK IN THE MIRROR YOU'RE PIERCED AND TATTOOED ALL OVER!
IT REMINDS ME OF THOSE PINK CHICKS THEY SELL AT FAIRS.

ARASHI,
I CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE THAT PURENESS ABOUT YOU
DON'T CALL ME PURE!
EVERY-ONE!
OUR MODEL HAS ARRIVED ♡
I'M YURAKI HAYASAKA NICE TO MEET YOU! ♡ ♡
SEE, CAROLINE, THIS IS IT!
THE BLUE ROSE OF CHILD-HOOD ♡
WOW, IT IS!
IT'S BEAU-TIFUL! ♡
WOW! ♡
IT LOOKS REAL!
WHAT IS THIS OVERABUN-DANCE OF ENERGY?!
WE CAN'T COMPETE WITH THIS
WHEN I'M GETTING BEAT UP!
GIRLS LIKE FAIRS!
I GET IT
OF COURSE ISABELLA WILL WIN!
WHO'S THIS A MAGI-CIAN?
BAAAHHAAAHA

DON'T LET OUT THE DOVES!!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF WORKING!
I'LL TAKE CAROLINE TO THE REHEARSAL WHILE YOU GUYS FINISH THIS UP.
LET'S EAT THE DOVES LATER.
ALL THE DOVES!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THESE?
IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?
ALL PARTICIPANTS, PLEASE REPORT TO THE AUDITORIUM.
REHEARSALS FOR THE SENIOR FASHION SHOW ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN
NICE TOUCH, GEORGE.
WHAT A WASTE!
I GIVE UP.
BEEP. ATTENTION, STUDENTS.

BUT IT WON'T COME OFF IF YOU GET IT ON YOUR CLOTHES, SO BE CAREFUL.
YEAH, IT'LL BE FINE
OKAY, I GOT IT!
GOOD GIRL! ♡
THIS WON'T COME OFF WITH WATER WILL IT COME OFF WITH SOAP?
OH YEAH, GEORGE
THEY'LL BE READY BY SHOW-TIME
LEAVE IT TO US, GEORGE.
EAT!
CAN THE ROSES BE RUINED? WHINE!
IT'S JUST A BASE DYE.
I HAVEN'T MIXED ANY-THING!
YOU REALLY ARE A GENIUS!
WHAT AND HOW DO YOU MIX TO GET THIS BEAUTIFUL BLUE?
WHAT KIND OF DYE IS IT?
IT'S SO POWERFUL!
THIS STUFF REALLY WORKS ALMOST SCARILY WELL
MY BLOOD!
WHAT IS IT?
OH,

いやあああ
DON'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY, MIWAKO!
I CAN, BUT WILL IT WORK ON BLUE BLOOD?
CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME OF YOUR MEDS?
THAT'S WHY I'M FEELING A LITTL FAINT TODAY!
CALM DOWN

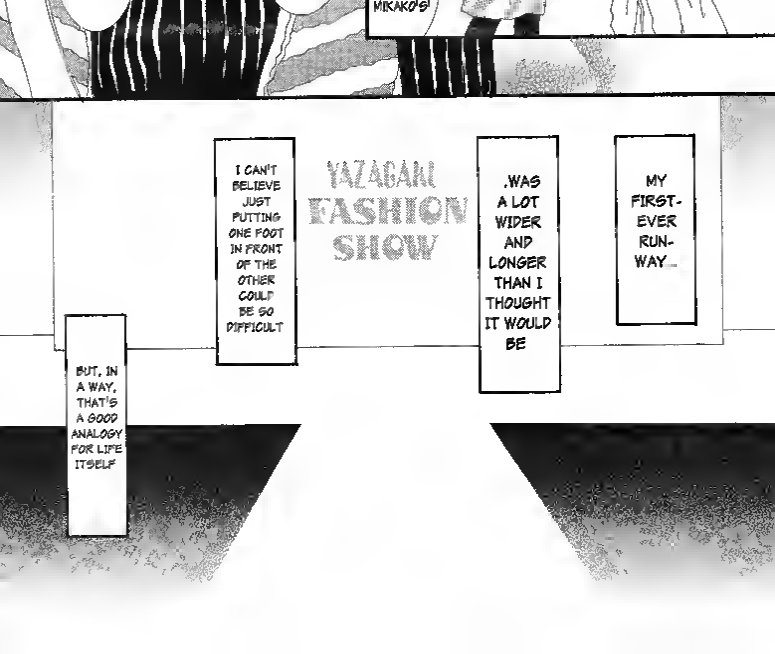
CAROLINE,
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
NO.
I'M EXCITED!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WEAR THE DRESS AND WALK.
I WAS SO NERVOUS I COULDN'T SLEEP.
THAT'S VERY BRAVE OF YOU.
THERE YOU GO BEING CUTESY AGAIN!
I'M NOT NERVOUS, BUT...
...I'M STILL ANXIOUS.

IF I DO, LET'S CONTINUE WITH THIS! ♡
AGAIN WITH THE CONTINUATION!
SHAME ON YOU
I TOLD YOU IF YOU WIN THE GRAND PRIZE
EVEN AFTER THIS FAIR IS OVER,
WILL WE STILL BE CONNECTED?
WHAT HAPPENS IF HE DOESN'T GET IT?!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN OFF LIKE THAT BY SAYING
IF YOU WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!
...
SO WE'RE DOING IT EITHER WAY...
THAT TAKES THE FUN OUT OF IT!
.....
BUT IT'LL BE ALRIGHT, WON'T IT?
'CAUSE I'LL FEEL SORRY FOR YA!
IF YOU DON'T WIN, I'LL STILL CONSOLE YOU!

HE LOVES ME IN HIS OWN WAY.
I GET THE FEELING...
I UNDERSTAND GEORGE A LOT BETTER NOW.
さわ
さわ
さわ
MS. HAMADA!
IT'LL PROBABLY BE OKAY!
YAZAGAKU FESTIVAL

MS. ASO...
I WANTED TO SEE THE SHOW SO BADLY, I JUST CAME BACK ♡
ISN'T THAT NICE? ♡
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
エート
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHY ARE YOU IN JAPAN?!
YOU JUST CAME BACK...
OH, THAT'S SO LIKE YOU!
WHO IS IT, HAMA? SHE'S CUTE! INTRODUCE ME!
WOOOW! COOL!
HEY! THE MODEL! SOMETHING SHIMAMOTO!
I'M FLATTERED YOU KNOW ME
I'VE RETIRED, THOUGH! THANK YOU. ♡
HEY!
STOP IT, MS. SHIMAMOTO! SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT THIS GIRL IS A PROMISING YOUNG DESIGNER!
WOW. REALLY?
スキッ
YOU SHOULD COME WORK FOR US...
I RUN A MODELING AGENCY NOW

NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M KAORI ASO.
WOW SO SHE'S A CLASS-MATE OF MIKAKO'S!
SHE'S STUDYING IN LONDON RIGHT NOW AT OUR SISTER SCHOOL.
SHE WON THE GRAND PRIZE AT THE JUNIOR SHOW LAST YEAR
TSCH
WHAT'Y I DON'T LOOK IT!


MY FIRST-EVER RUN-WAY...
.WAS A LOT WIDER AND LONGER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
YAZAWA FASHION SHOW
I CAN'T BELIEVE JUST PUTTING ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER COULD BE SO DIFFICULT
BUT, IN A WAY, THAT'S A GOOD ANALOGY FOR LIFE ITSELF

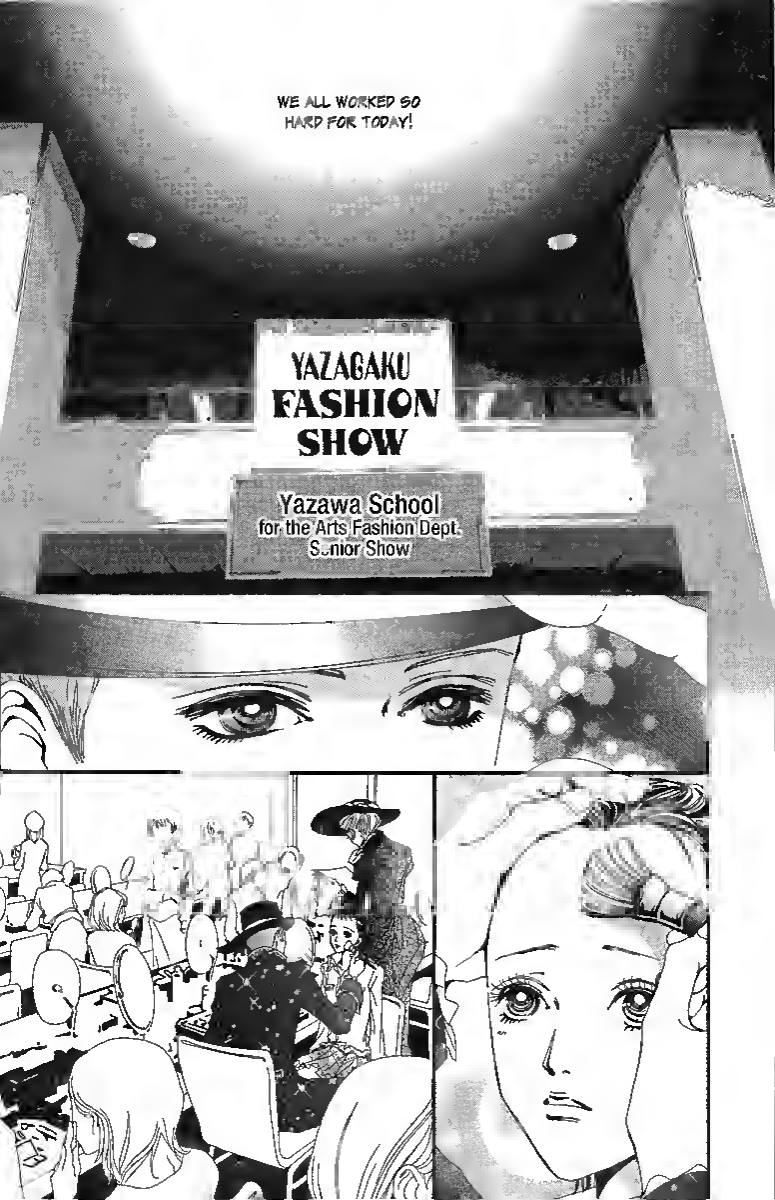
STAGE 35

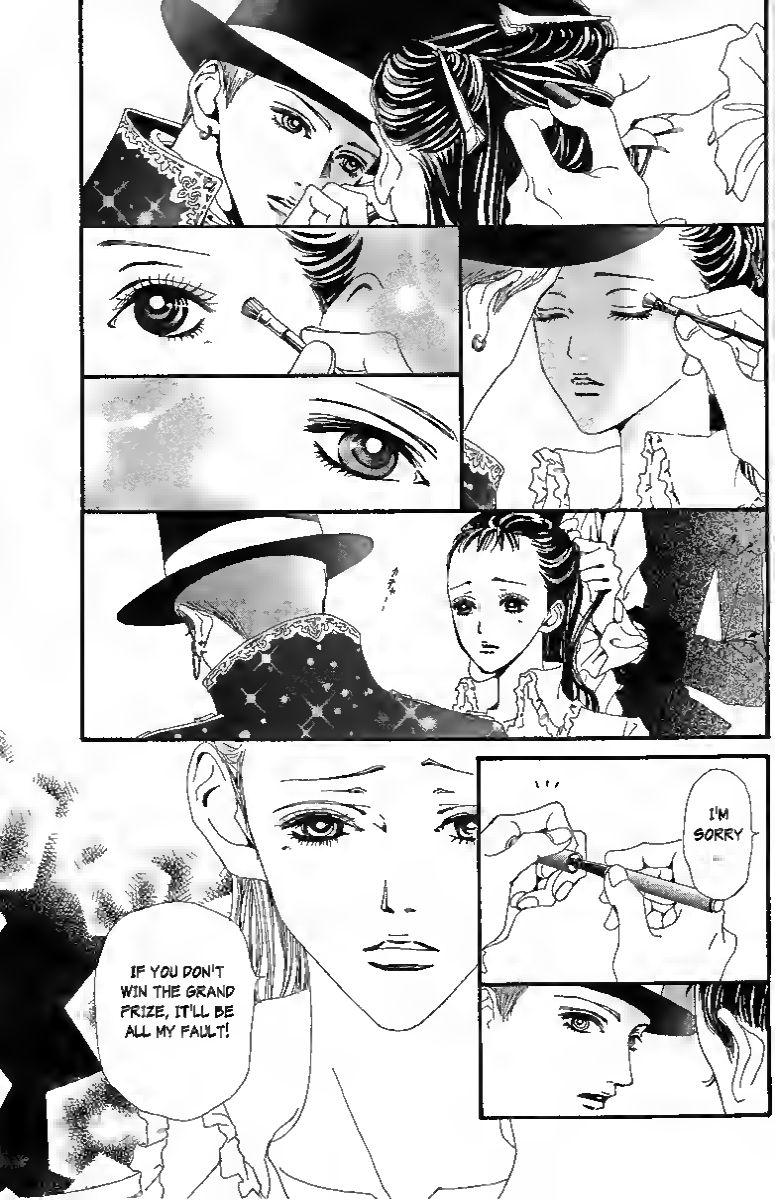
NO, I JUST SUDDENLY GOT NERVOUS.
YOU'VE NEVER WALKED BEFORE
IT'S TOTALLY UNDERSTANDABLE CAROLINE.
WE WERE SO CAUGHT UP WITH THE DRESS...
WE SHOULD'VE ALLOWED SOME TIME FOR PRACTICE. I'M SORRY.
WAS IT THAT BAD AT THE REHEARSAL?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STRUT LIKE A PROFESSIONAL MODEL. JUST WALK LIKE YOU NORMALLY DO
IT'S NOT TRUE!
BUT I WAS JUST BUSY WITH A LOT OF THINGS...
NO!
THAT'S SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE DONE ON MY OWN
LIKE MAKEUP EXAMS
BUT I HAD PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL, EITHER.
STOP IT! THE MORE I MAKE EXCUSES, THE MORE HE'LL DESPISE ME!

CAROLINE
ビクッ!!
MIWAKO!
I'LL COME WITH YOU, CAROLINE!
ガラッ
ANYWAY, I'M GONNA GO PRACTICE!
キュピーン
DON'T WORRY, MIWAKO
LET'S BOTH WORK HARD AND KEEP OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE!
YOU HAVE THINGS YOU NEED TO BE DOING
BE AT THE DRESSING ROOM AT ONE SHARP
WE'RE GOING INTO HAIR AND MAKEUP
WHAT A MERCILESS GUY!
THERE'S ONLY HALF AN HOUR LEFT!

I WAS PUTTING OUT MY RIGHT ARM AND RIGHT LEG AT THE SAME TIME.
IT'S MY FAULT FOR TAKING WALKING TOO LIGHTLY
NO, DON'T ATTACK!
THE SHOW STARTS AT 4:00, RIGHT?
WHY DOES HAIR AND MAKEUP TAKE THREE HOURS?!
LET'S JUST DO IT THE NO FUSS, NO MUSS WAY!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A BUDDING MODEL ON THE RISE!
THIS ISN'T HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE
I'M CRAZY!
IT'LL BE THE MOST HUMILIATING MOMENT OF MY ENTIRE LIFE!
WHAT IF I FALL IN FRONT A HUGE CROWD OF PEOPLE AND THEY ALL START STARING AND LAUGHING?*
I NEED TO DO SOMETHING!
Ed Note: Just like Carrie did on Sex and the City!
THE FIRST TIME IS ALWAYS LIKE THAT
AND EMBARRASS YOURSELF?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AHEAD

DON'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE SOME QUICK POINTERS?
POINTERS?
YOU CAN'T BECOME A PRO OVERNIGHT.
NO, I NEED SOMETHING THAT WILL WORK RIGHT NOW!
I'LL GIVE YOU PROPER WALKING LESSONS
SHIMA-MOTO!
PLEASE GIVE ME SOME SORT OF GUID-ANCE!
"I AM THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WHOLE, ENTIRE WORLD."
JUST THINK TO YOURSELF,
I WOULDN'T CARE IF I WAS ONLY EMBAR-RASSING MYSELF
OH, NO!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
I CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
I DON'T NEED POINTERS FOR MY HEAD! I NEED POINTERS FOR MY FEET!
TO ME,
THIS IS SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN DOING SOME FAMOUS DESIGNER'S SHOW.
BUT TODAY,
GEORGE, MIWAKO, AND EVERYONE'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS


WE ALL WORKED SO HARD FOR TODAY!
YAZAGAKU FASHION SHOW
Yazawa School
for the Arts Fashion Dept.
Senior Show


I'M SORRY...
IF YOU DON'T WIN THE GRAND PRIZE, IT'LL BE ALL MY FAULT!

DON'T WORRY!
EVEN IF YOU FELL ON THE RUNWAY, I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CARRIE?
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS HOW WELL THE DRESS IS MADE. THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO FEEL SO RESPONSIBLE!
IT WOULD MEAN THAT WE MADE A MISTAKE IN CHOOSING YOU

GEORGE!
I FEEL SO PATHETIC
MY EYES ARE BRIMMING WITH TEARS
...AND THE LUMP IN MY THROAT IS SO BIG THAT I CAN'T BREATHE
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M CRYING!
I'LL SHOW THEM I'LL MAKE THE SHOW A SUCCESS!
I'LL CRY AFTER THEY'VE WON THE GRAND PRIZE
EMOTIONAL MIWAKO WILL PROBABLY CRY, TOO.

WE'LL HUG AND CRY TEARS OF JOY
HURRY, MIWAKO!
WE'RE UP IN FORTY MINUTES!
IT'S FINISHED
OH, YEAH... RIGHT! AAARGH!
OH, YEAH!
WE HAVE TO PUT THESE ALL ON CAROLINE NOW!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THAT'S PLENTY ♡ OF TIME!
OH, WE STILL HAVE FORTY MINUTES?

WHAT WILL WE DO?
DO YOU THINK WE'LL MAKE IT?
WE'RE FIFTH IN LINE IT'S ALRIGHT
LET'S RUN JUST IN CASE!
HIROYUKI!

CAMEO!
BIO
NORIJI SUNAMI - THE LANDLORD OF THE BUILDING WHERE HIRO AND MIWAKO GREW UP. HE IS A KNOWN FIGURE TO THOSE WHO READ MY FORMER MANGA SERIES, NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES. IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT SERIES, IT'S FINE TO SIMPLY THINK OF HIM AS A MIDDLE-AGED MAN FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD
THANK YOU, MR NORIJI
OH, I BOUGHT SOME OCTOPUS BALLS
LET'S EAT!
THE STAFF'S HERE FOR THE YAKUZA MOVIE PREMIERE SHOW

WELL, I GUESS THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED CAN GO TO THE COMIC BOOK STORE AND GET THEIR FILL OF MY MAGIC...
WHAT?
SEXY GRAY?
ALTHOUGH I KNOW I'VE GRAYED IN A VERY SEXY WAY!
ESPECIALLY THE PART WHERE THEY MISTAKENLY WROTE "MIDDLE AGED" MAN
THAT'S A VERY VAGUE EXPLANATION!
WHAT?
WHERE?
IF YOU HAD TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO SEE THEM I COULD'VE E-MAILED THEM.
THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU
MIWAKO AND ARASHI TOOK OFF THAT WAY EARLIER
THEY'RE BEHIND THE SCENES DURING THE SHOW TOO, RIGHT?
TOO BAD
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MIWAKO AND ARASHI AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM ANYWHERE

IF I DID, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME WITH YOU!
DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
WELL, I'M SURE THEY'RE REALLY BUSY TODAY, SO WE CAN'T BOTHER THEM
HMM, E-MAIL.
I GUESS THEY ARE
THEY'RE BOYFRIEND AND GIRL-FRIEND NOW, RIGHT?
WELL, ARASHI AND MIWAKO ARE STILL INSEPA-RABLE, EH?
THEN WHY ARE YOU COMING TO A SCHOOL FAIR DURING SUCH A BUSY TIME, ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THE STUDYING YOU HAVE TO DO?
NO MATTER HOW MATURE YOU SEEM, YOU'RE AT A DIFFICULT AGE
WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST BE HONEST WITH ME?
NO!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU AND MIWAKO WOULD GET TOGETHER
DOES THAT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

I'M HERE BECAUSE A GIRL I LIKE IS MODELING.
WHAT?!
SHE HAS A BOYFRIEND, THOUGH
IF YOU KEEP HAVING THESE UNREWARDING CRUSHES, YOU'LL BE SINGLE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. LIKE ME
HIROYUKI!

DRESSING ROOM
(HAIR AND MAKEUP)
MUST BE A LOOKALIKE!
TWINS!
BUT IT LOOKED JUST LIKE HER!
SHE'S IN LONDON!
ASO'S NOT IN CLASS C ANYMORE
YOU MEAN KAORI ASO?
ASO ..
SHE WAS AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
THAT GIRL AT THE DOOR WAS MS ASO FROM CLASS C!
WHAT?
MS. ASO!
ARASHI!

ISABELLA'S NEXT DOOR DRESSING HER
YEAH, WHERE'S CAROLINE?
ARE THE ROSES DONE?
ISN'T NEXT DOOR OFF-LIMITS TO MEN?
THEY'RE NOT HERE WHERE'D THEY GO?
HUH?
ARASHI!
I GUESS ISABELLA USES THE WOMEN'S BATHROOM AND NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE
I GUESS IT'S OKAY!
THAT'S A DELICATE SITUATION
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
GIRLS' DRESSING ROOM
(NO MEN ALLOWED)
I COULDN'T STAND HAVING TO LIVE LIFE AS A BOY WHEN I WAS SO CLEARLY A GIRL ON THE INSIDE.
AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE ALWAYS FELT OUT OF PLACE AS A MAN.
YOU KNOW, CARRIE,

BUT WHEN I WAS IN THIRD GRADE,
I TOLD GEORGE, WHO WAS A CLASSMATE OF MINE, HOW I FELT...
UNTIL THEN, NO ONE TOOK MY FEELINGS SERIOUSLY,
BUT HE REALLY LISTENED
JUST THAT IN ITSELF MADE ME SO HAPPY, I COULD CRY
THEN A FEW DAYS LATER, GEORGE CAME OVER UNANNOUNCED...
ISABELLA
....
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MISS YAMAMOTO

WHEN I OPENED THE PRESENT, I SAW A BEAUTIFUL VIOLET-COLORED DRESS AND HAT.
SEBASTIAN, PREPARE THE DOM PERIGNON!
THAT WAS MR. YAMAMOTO'S BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?
?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER MY PARTY IN THE WINTER?
GEORGE,
IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.
TRY IT ON!
DO YOU LIKE IT?
...CUTE! ♡
GEORGE, THIS IS...
FIRST OF ALL, THERE'S NO WAY THIS WOULD LOOK GOOD ON A BOY!
I CAN'T!
BUT...
WHO DECIDED THAT?
THERE'S NO SUCH LAW!
I'LL KEEP THIS IN A SAFE PLACE.
BECAUSE I'M A BOY.
WHY NOT?
I CAN'T!
I CAN'T DRESS LIKE A GIRL!

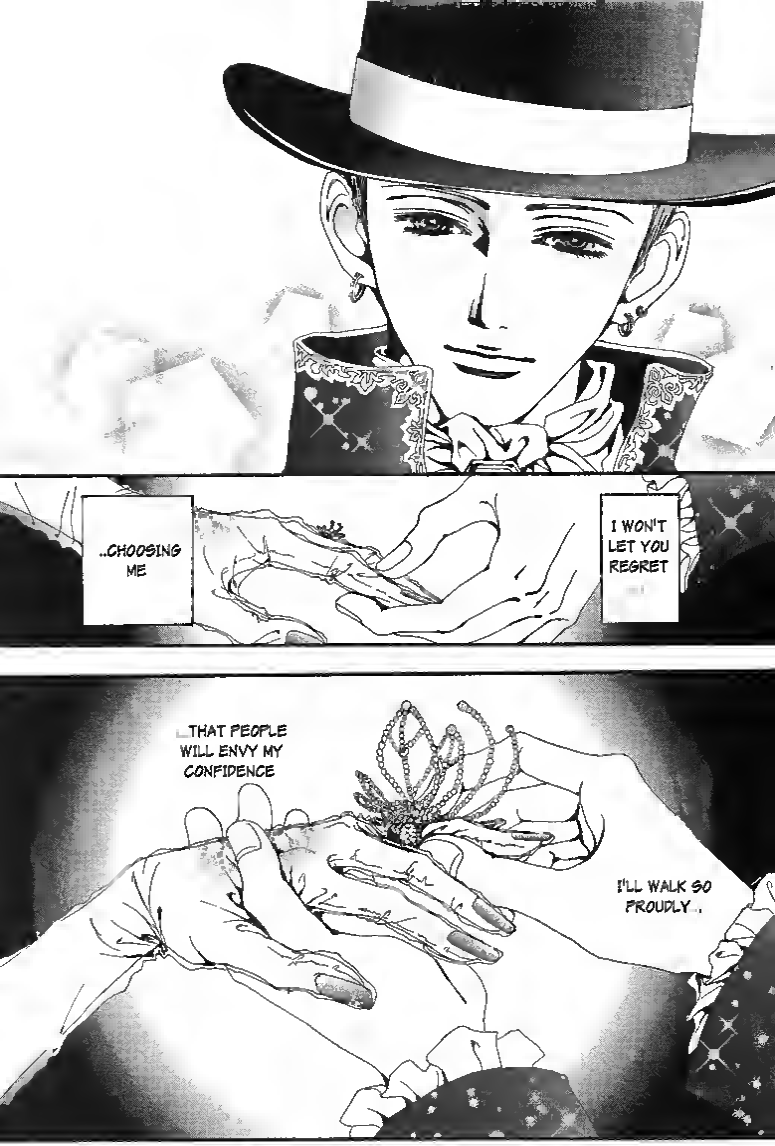
I MADE IT BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND WHAT I HAD IN MIND IN THE STORES
ESPECIALLY WITH A MATCHING HAT!
YOU MADE THIS, GEORGE?!
WHAT...? MADE IT?
I HAD NEVER MADE CLOTHING BEFORE,
BUT IT WAS A LOT MORE FUN THAN MAKING MODEL PLANES.
I THINK I LIKE IT!
I MADE IT WITH YOU IN MIND.
DON'T WORRY, IT'LL LOOK GOOD.
THAT SEBASTIAN MOCKING US...
HMM?
THIS IS CHAMPAGNE FOR KIDS!
WOW!
HOW DO YOU MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS? I WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING, TOO!
THEY WON'T BUY ME THE SKIRTS AND DRESSES THAT I WANT
REALLY?
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE ONE TOGETHER NEXT TIME?
I WANT TO SEE IF I MADE SOMETHING WEARABLE.
ANYWAY, TRY IT ON
I WAS SO HAPPY AND EXCITED.
BUT I WAS STILL EMBARRASSED.
I THOUGHT MAYBE I WAS BEING MADE FUN OF.
WHAT IF HE LAUGHED AT ME?

BUT GEORGE WAS DEAD SERIOUS
YOU LOOK CUTE, YAMAMOTO.
AM I A GENIUS?
DO...
DOES THIS LOOK FUNNY?
I'M DEFINITELY IMPRESSED! WHAT SHOULD I MAKE NEXT?
...
I WAS THE ONE WHO ENDED UP LAUGHING

AFTER THAT,
I DECIDED TO ALWAYS CELEBRATE MY BIRTHDAY IN THE SPRING.
I WASN'T ABLE TO BE BORN AS A GIRL...
BUT WHEN I DRESSED LIKE A GIRL, A GREAT DETERMINATION WAS BORN IN ME...LIKE MAGIC.
BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES GIVE PEOPLE CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE.
I'VE CONTINUED TO HELP GEORGE MAKE CLOTHES WITH THAT BELIEF IN MIND.
HAS THE MAGIC COME OVER YOU YET?

YOU KNOW, GEORGE...
JUST BEFORE,
I SAW MS. AS
HEY!
ISABELLA!

CAROLINE, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!


..CHOOSING ME
I WON'T LET YOU REGRET
..THAT PEOPLE WILL ENVY MY CONFIDENCE
I'LL WALK SO PROUDLY..

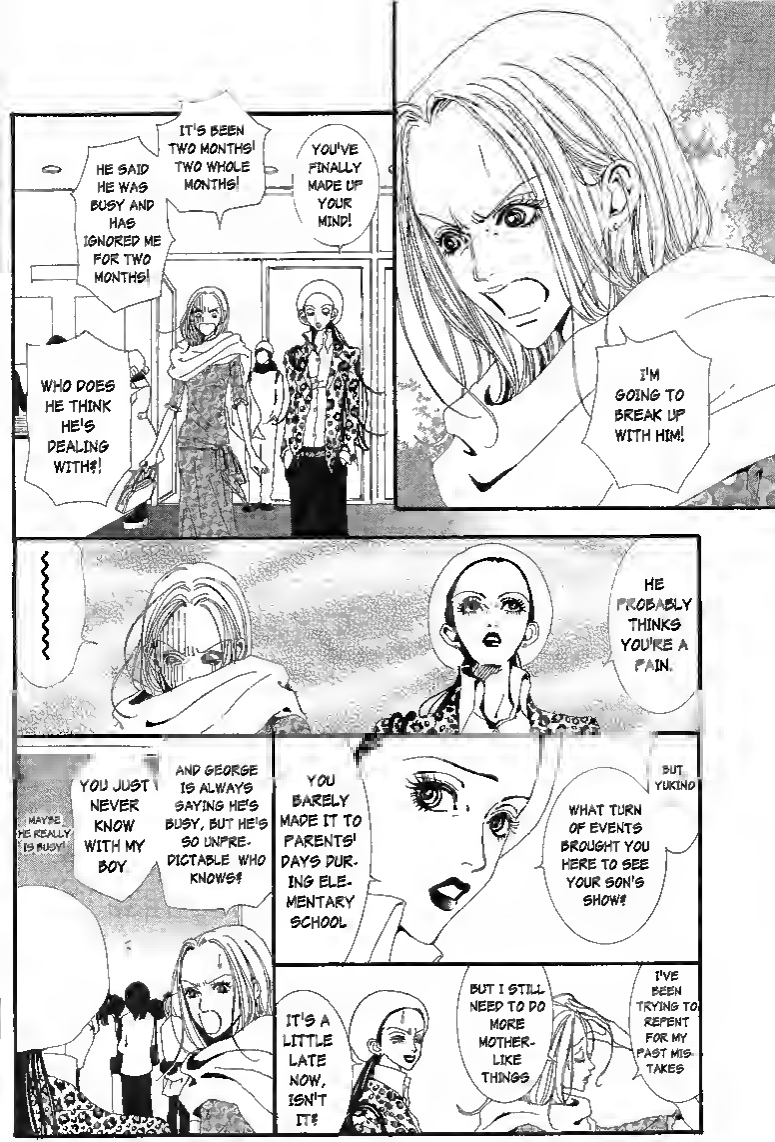
STAGE 36

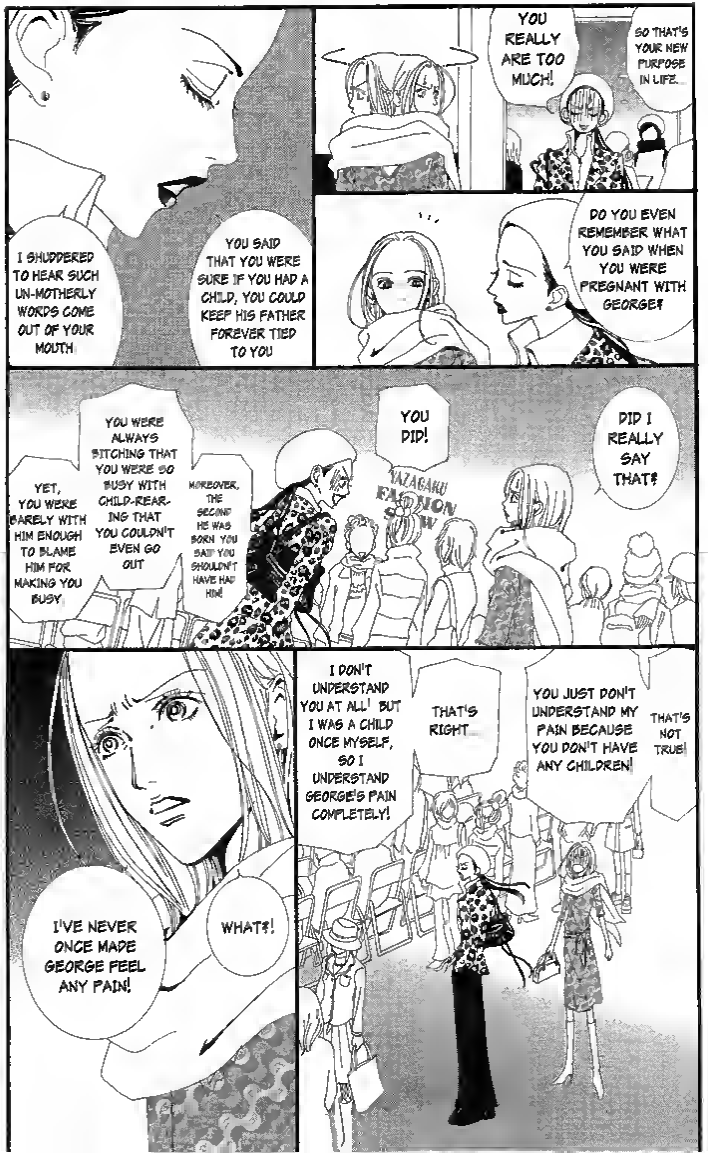
SIR!
OH, LONG TIME, NO SEE, MS. HAMADA.
YOU LOOK VERY PRETTY, AS USUAL!

THE GUEST PARKING LOT IS SO SMALL, IT'S HARD TO PARK
BUT THERE'S SPACE, SO WHO CARES?
...THIS PARKING LOT IS FOR THE TEACHERS
I ALWAYS SAY THIS, BUT...
MR. NIKAIDO,
EVEN WITH ALL MY DONATIONS!
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY IS GIVEN IN DONATIONS, WINNING IS BASED PURELY ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S TALENT!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW—
DO YOU THINK HE CAN WIN THE GRAND PRIZE?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW'S MY SON?
BUT THE RULES
THERE YOU GO, FEIGNING IGNORANCE AGAIN
I KNOW YOU KNOW! ♡
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE REFERRING TO THERE'S NO STUDENT HERE BY THE NAME NIKAIDO
YOUR SON?

EVEN AFTER MY SON GRADUATES
I'LL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL AS LONG AS THERE ARE PASSIONATE TEACHERS LIKE YOU HERE
THAT'S A RELIEF TO HEAR!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING SO RUDE
I DON'T MIND!
AS YOU KNOW, I'M VERY STRONG-WILLED
I QUESTION PEOPLE WHO SUBMIT TO ME WITHOUT QUESTION
ON THAT NOTE, I FIND YOU TRUSTWORTHY

THE FASHION SHOW STARTS AT FOUR, RIGHT?
I STILL HAVE THIRTY MINUTES
THE DOORS ARE OPEN NOW, SO IT'S BETTER TO ARRIVE EARLY AND GET A GOOD SEAT.
NO, THAT'S ALRIGHT. I'LL WATCH QUIETLY FROM THE BACK
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST PARENTAL LOVE
あはは
IF MY SON SEES ME, HE'LL WONDER WHAT I'M UP TO
IS IT THAT HARD TO LEAVE MY SIDE?
I THINK I'LL GO SAY HELLO TO THE PRINCIPAL
...EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE HIM
HE'S ALWAYS SO VAGUE
SHOULD I ACCOMPANY YOU?
EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GO PREPARE FOR THE SHOW!
YOU'RE SO COLD-HEARTED
BUT THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU.


I'M GOING TO BREAK UP WITH HIM!
YOU'VE FINALLY MADE UP YOUR MIND!
IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS! TWO WHOLE MONTHS!
HE SAID HE WAS BUSY AND HAS IGNORED ME FOR TWO MONTHS!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE'S DEALING WITH?!
HE PROBABLY THINKS YOU'RE A FAIN.
BUT YUKINO
WHAT TURN OF EVENTS BROUGHT YOU HERE TO SEE YOUR SON'S SHOW?
YOU BARELY MADE IT TO PARENTS' DAYS DURING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REPENT FOR MY PAST MISTAKES
BUT I STILL NEED TO DO MORE MOTHER-LIKE THINGS
IT'S A LITTLE LATE NOW, ISN'T IT?
AND GEORGE IS ALWAYS SAYING HE'S BUSY, BUT HE'S SO UNPREDICTABLE WHO KNOWS?
YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WITH MY BOY
MAYBE HE REALLY IS BUSY!


I SHUDDERED TO HEAR SUCH UN-MOTHERLY WORDS COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH
YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE SURE IF YOU HAD A CHILD, YOU COULD KEEP HIS FATHER FOREVER TIED TO YOU
YOU REALLY ARE TOO MUCH!
SO THAT'S YOUR NEW PURPOSE IN LIFE...
DO YOU EVEN REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU WERE PREGNANT WITH GEORGE?
YET, YOU WERE BARELY WITH HIM ENOUGH TO BLAME HIM FOR MAKING YOU BUSY
YOU WERE ALWAYS BITCHING THAT YOU WERE SO BUSY WITH CHILD-REARING THAT YOU COULDN'T EVEN GO OUT
MOREOVER, THE SECOND HE WAS BORN YOU SAID YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD HIM!
YOU DID!
DID I REALLY SAY THAT?
I'VE NEVER ONCE MADE GEORGE FEEL ANY PAIN!
WHAT?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL! BUT I WAS A CHILD ONCE MYSELF, SO I UNDERSTAND GEORGE'S PAIN COMPLETELY!
THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND MY PAIN BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!

I'LL TRY SO HARD NO ONE CAN EVER SAY I'M A BAD MOTHER AGAIN!
I TOLD YOU I'M REPENTING!
ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS?
YUKINO!
HE HAS ALL THE MONEY HE WANTS
HE GETS TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS
BUT I THINK I SPOILED HIM SO MUCH THAT HE BECAME STRANGE. NO, HE'S PAST BEING STRANGE
HE'S SCARY!
SO, YOU'RE HERE!
IT'S YOU, YUKINO
SAY THAT TO ME FIRST!
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'S BEEN?
YOU SEEM TO BE SO HAPPY THAT YOU'VE FAINTED!
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME.
KOZUE'S WITH YOU TOO, EH?
JOJGHI!
♡
ぎゅ。

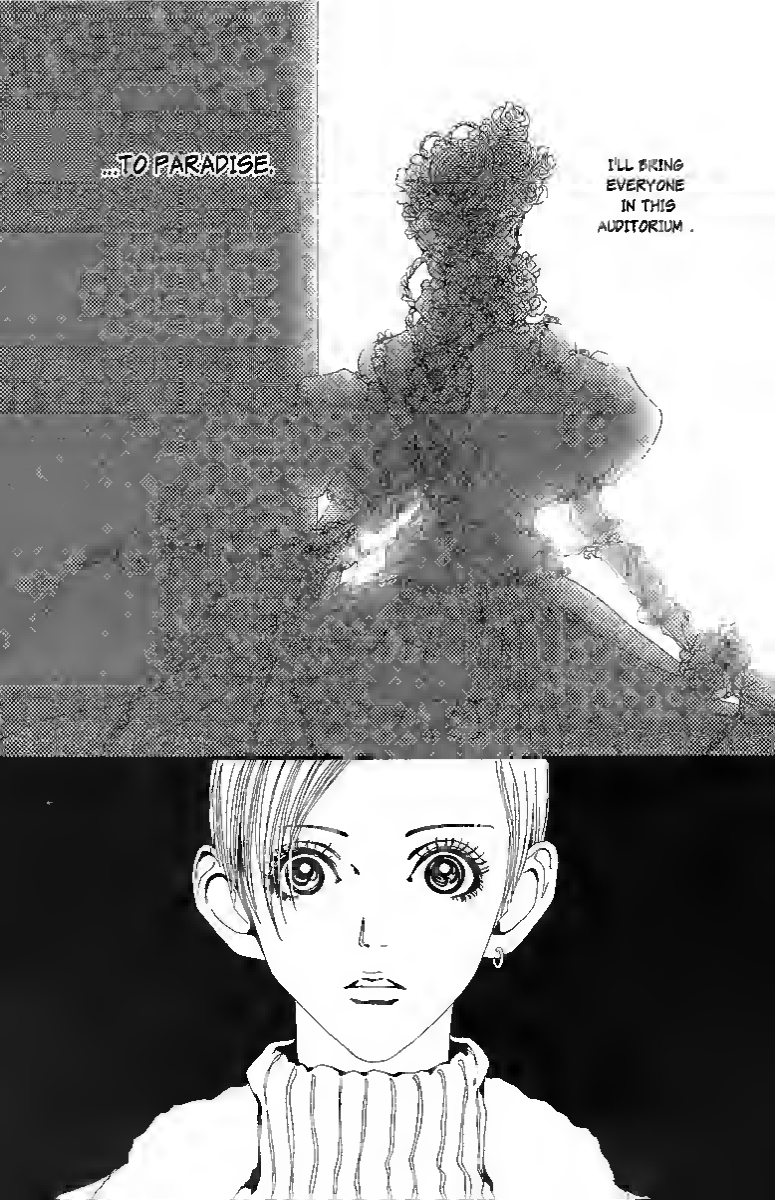
EXCUSE ME, SINCE I SEEM TO BE IN THE WAY
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BREAKING UP!
REALLY?
I'M SO GLAD I CAME!
I'LL COME OVER TONIGHT
YOU'LL GET MORE WRINKLES!
DON'T BE SO ANGRY!
エヘ～♪
SHIMAMOTO!
YOU'RE HERE, MIKAKO!
BUT AREN'T YOU SWAMPED WITH DEAD LINES FOR THE COLLECTION?
OF COURSE I SAW THE JUNIOR SHOW YESTERDAY, TOO
YOU'RE SO FULL OF ENERGY!
AND DRESSED SO YOUNG AGAIN
HOW OLD-LADY-LIKE OF YOU!
あっはっは
NO, I'M SERIOUS!
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, TO SOAK IN SOME OF THE YOUNGINS' ENERGY!
NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY ENERGY. I'M POOPED!
ぐったり

I ALWAYS FEEL INNOCENT AGAIN WHEN I SEE THE YAZAWA SHOW
IT'S LIKE TURNING BACK TIME TO THE PERIOD IN MY LIFE WHEN I WAS COMPLETELY OBSESSED...
WHEN WE WERE JUNIORS, WE WERE IN THE SAME GROUP.
YEAH.
I WAS LATE TO THE CLASS WHERE THEY ANNOUNCED THE CONCEPT FOR THE SHOW.
AND THE ENTIRE GROUP HAD TO DRAW A HUNDRED STYLE DRAWINGS!
OH, YEAH, WE DID DO THAT!
BY HAMADA
AHAHA THAT'S SO FUNNY
AFTER THAT, "A HUNDRED STYLE DRAWINGS" BECAME A CATCH-PHRASE.
THAT'S RIGHT
WE USED TO DWELL ON THE SMALLEST THINGS BACK THEN,
WE MUST HAVE HAD A LOT OF ROUGH TIMES!
BUT WHEN YOU LOOK BACK WE REALLY HAD THE BEST TIMES! IT'S FUNNY TO LOOK BACK NOW

YEAH,
YOU NEVER WANT TO LOSE THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
EVERY-ONE WAS OBSESSED WITH THEIR VISION
YOU DON'T WANT TO FORGET THAT!
YAZAGAKI FASHION SHOW
WHILE I WAS WAITING TO GO ON,
IN THE WINGS,
...AND I WAS COMPLETELY OVER-WHELMED.
GEORGE HELD MY HAND THE WHOLE TIME...

...THAT WAS ON THE WALL.
YAZAGAKU FASHION SHOW
HE GAZED STEADILY AT THE MONITOR...
I COULD FEEL HIS NERVOUSNESS.
GEORGE'S GRIP GREW STRONGER
AS OUR TURN CAME CLOSER,
...I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS HOLDING HIS HAND.
I STARTED FEELING LIKE...

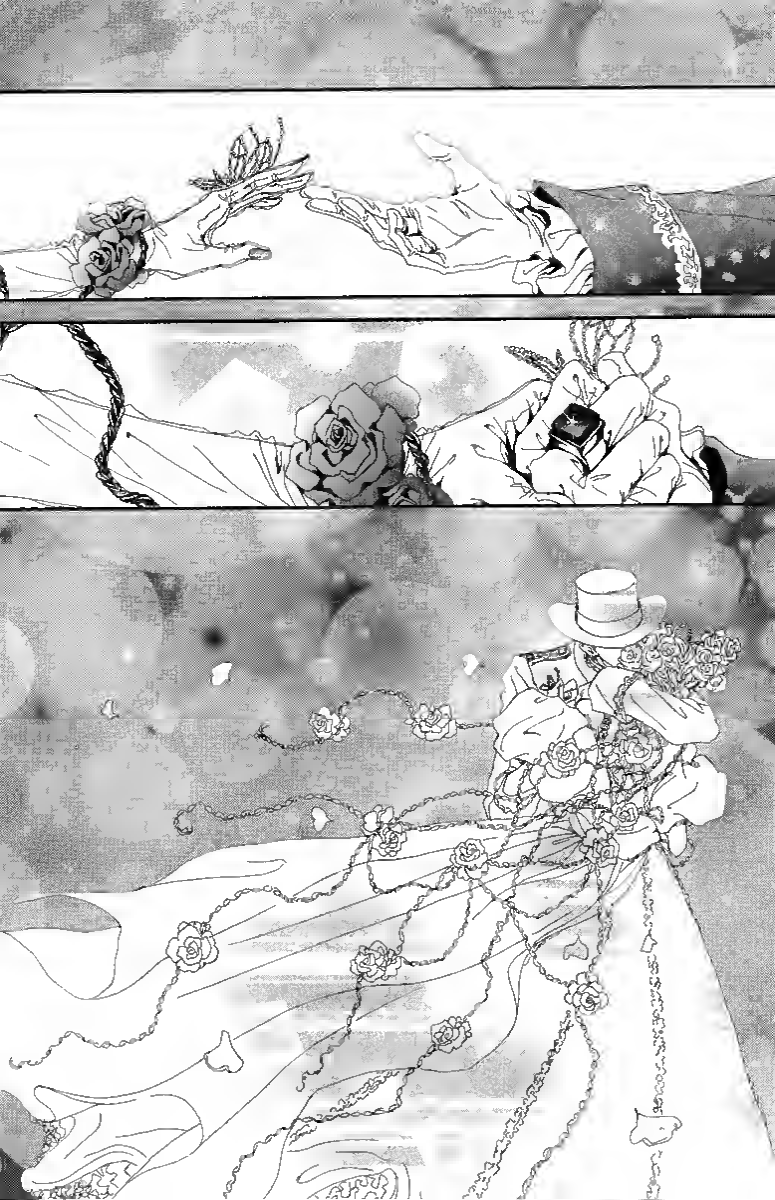
. THAT I WANTED TO BECOME STRONGER NOT FOR ANYONE ELSE, BUT FOR MYSELF.
IT WAS AFTER I MET GEORGE...
...TO BE STRONGER FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT, UNTIL NOW, I HAD NEVER WANTED...
DON'T WORRY!
LEAVE IT TO ME


...TO PARADISE.
I'LL BRING EVERYONE IN THIS AUDITORIUM .

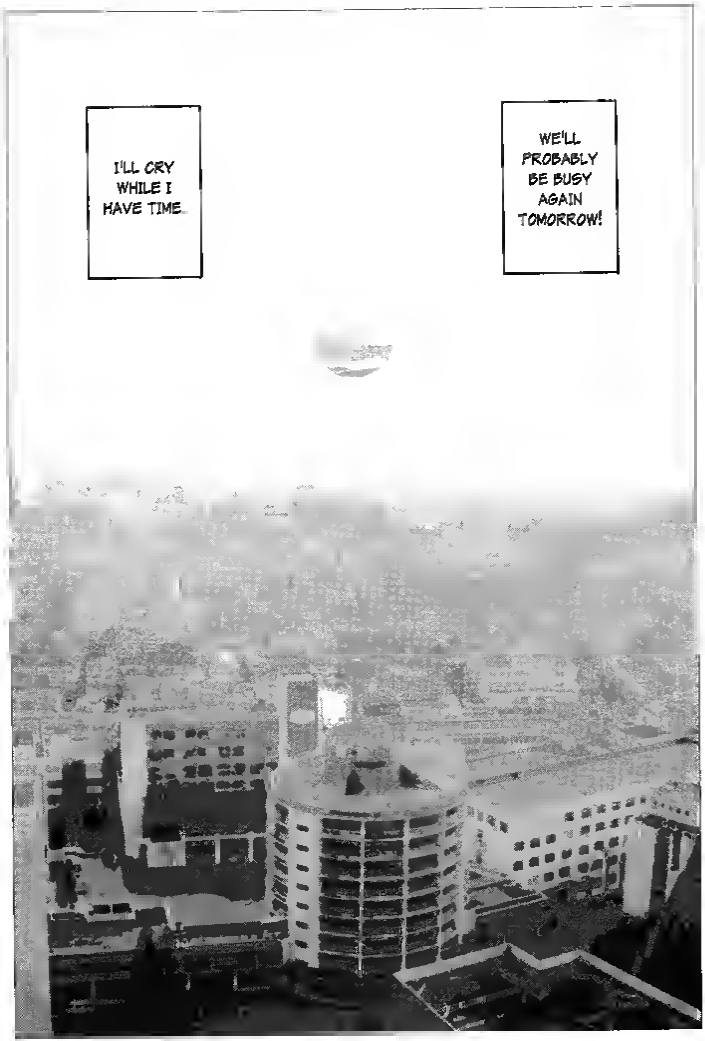
HIROYUKI
...
I HAVE TO SAY...

YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH QUITE A LOVELY ROSE.
GEORGE IS WAITING
YAZAWA KASHION

CAROLINE, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!
IN THE WINGS...
CAN'T YOU KEEP IT DOWN?!
YOU'RE SPOILING THE MOMENT
DON'T FALL!
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE!
GREAT, CAROLINE!
THE KINDEST SMILE...
I LOVE YOU, CAROLINE!
YAZAKAKI FASHION SHOW
YOU GO, CAROLINE!
HE'LL PROBABLY SMILE...
YAZAKAKI FASHION SHOW
ALRIGHT!
FLAWLESS!
EVER!
THE GRAND PRIZE IS OURS!



THANK YOU!
I FEEL UNBELIEVABLE!
...I WOULDN'T CRY UNTIL WE GOT THE GRAND PRIZE
BUT OH, WELL!
I TOLD MYSELF..


I'LL CRY WHILE I HAVE TIME.
WE'LL PROBABLY BE BUSY AGAIN TOMORROW!

STAGE 37

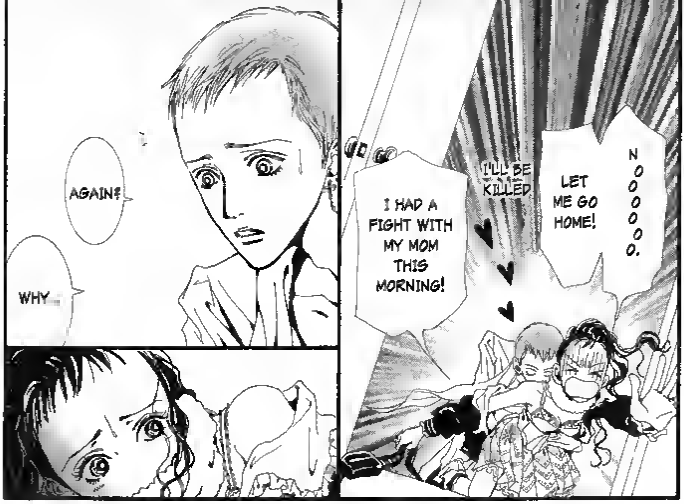
I PILFERED IT FROM OUR WINE CELLAR JUST FOR TODAY
IT'S DOM PERIGNON!
SHIT!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING
...THAT YOU CAN WHIP UP A FEAST SO QUICKLY
THE PREPARATIONS ARE GOOD TO GO!
WE HAVE CAKE, TOO ♡
WAIT!
カ!
リ♡
OKAY! SO LET'S POP THE CORK!

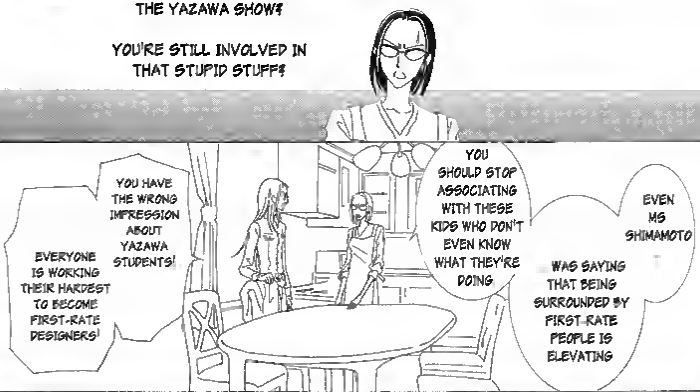
WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE CELEBRATING?
WHAT'S WITH THE DOM PERIGNON?!
AND THE FEAST?!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR CAKE!
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!?
THE SUCCESS OF THE SHOW.
わあん
AREN'T YOU GUYS MAD AT ALL?
DON'T BE SO HAPPY LET'S WALLOW IN OUR SADNESS!

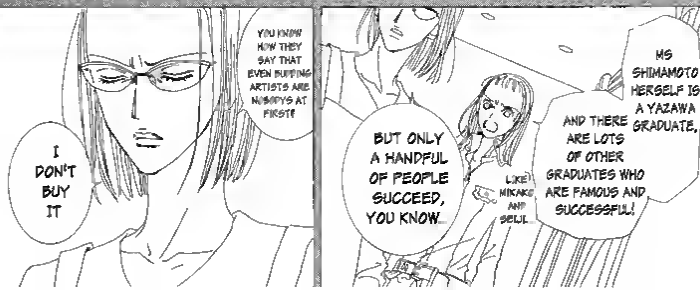
WHY?
OUR DRESS WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WHY DIDN'T WE WIN?
BUT IT'S STRANGE!
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?
OF COURSE IT'S TOO BAD.
THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE FRUSTRATING.
IT'S QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT!
AND WE ONLY LOST BY FIVE POINTS!
HEY, MAYBE WE DIDN'T GET FIRST, BUT AT LEAST WE GOT SECOND!
THE AUDIENCE IS STUPID!
ONLY FIVE MORE POINTS. IF WE ONLY GOT FIVE MORE POINTS...
CARRIE! CALM DOWN!
EITHER WAY, I'M NOT LETTING YOU SLEEP TONIGHT!
I'M SO MAD I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP TONIGHT...
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE! ♡
OKAY, HERE I GO...
ESPECIALLY AFTER EVERYONE WORKED SO HARD.
THIS IS TRULY AN AMAZING ♡ MOMENT,
CAROLINE SEEMS TO HAVE CHILLED OUT. SHALL WE START?
OKAY.
ひそ ひそ

I'M SO ENVIOUS.
ニンニンポー
I GUESS THE FACT THAT THEY MADE SOMETHING THEY COULD BE PROUD OF IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY PRIZE EVER COULD BE
EVERYONE REALLY LOOKS HAPPY
GLORY, HUH...
HOW STUPID!
JUDGING ART ON A POINT SYSTEM IN THE FIRST PLACE SEEMS TOTALLY RIDICULOUS!
THE BEAUTY OF THE CLOTHING ITSELF IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT
I WANTED TO BE NUMBER-ONE AND GET ALL THE GLORY
I WANTED THE GRAND PRIZE MORE THAN ANYTHING
BUT SINCE I GREW UP IN SUCH A COMPETITIVE, POINT-AWARDING WORLD,

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UNDRESSING ME?!
WHERE ARE WE?
WHAT?
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
....
I NEED TO GET HOME!
SHIT,
IT'S 11:00!
YOU REALLY CAN'T DRINK!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
WE'RE IN MY ROOM
YOU DRAGGED ME HERE!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO CONSOLE YOU, ANYWAY!
BUT STAY TRUE TO YOUR WORD, AT LEAST!
PUT ANYTHING
HOW COULD YOU JUST LEAVE, AFTER COMING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO CONSOLE ME!


AGAIN?
WHY...
I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY MOM THIS MORNING!
I'LL BE KILLED
LET ME GO HOME!
NOOOOOO.


THE YAZAWA SHOW?
YOU'RE STILL INVOLVED IN THAT STUPID STUFF?
YOU HAVE THE WRONG IMPRESSION ABOUT YAZAWA STUDENTS!
EVERYONE IS WORKING THEIR HARDEST TO BECOME FIRST-RATE DESIGNERS!
YOU SHOULD STOP ASSOCIATING WITH THESE KIDS WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING
EVEN MS SHIMAMOTO WAS SAYING THAT BEING SURROUNDED BY FIRST-RATE PEOPLE IS ELEVATING


I DON'T BUY IT
YOU KNOW HOW THEY SAY THAT EVEN BUDDING ARTISTS ARE NOBODYS AT FIRST!
BUT ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE SUCCEED, YOU KNOW.
LIKE MIKAKO AND SELJI.
MS SHIMAMOTO HERSELF IS A YAZAWA GRADUATE.
AND THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER GRADUATES WHO ARE FAMOUS AND SUCCESSFUL!

IT MAKES ME SO MAD!
WHAT?!
IF YOU HAD WON, AT LEAST
I COULD'VE HAD SOME AMMUNITION TO FIGHT MY MOTHER WITH
WHY DO I NEED TO WIN FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO WIN A FIGHT WITH YOUR MOTHER?!
I CAN'T. I'VE LOST IT!
THIS MAKES YOU MAD, TOO DOESN'T IT, GEORGE?!
DON'T BE SUCH A TOUGH GUY! BE HONEST!
THEN I'LL BE HONEST!
BRING IT ON!
COULD YOU NOT COMPLAIN SO MUCH IN FRONT OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THE SHOW A SUCCESS?

...
BUT...
BUT EVERYONE SUPPORTED MY VISION
THIS DRESS WASN'T A PARADISE KISS CREATION IT WAS PURELY MINE.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PARTY. BUT YOU WERE BITCHING RIGHT UP TO THE BITTER END...
I GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER BECAUSE YOU WERE SO DRUNK
YOU WERE REALLY COMPLAINING A LOT
I'M NOT REALLY COMPLAINING...
EVEN IF WE HAD WON THE GRAND PRIZE...
MY NAME ALONE WOULD'VE APPEARED ON THE PRIZE PLAQUE.
I WOULD'VE BEEN THE ONLY ONE TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDYING ABROAD
THERE WOULD'VE BEEN NO RECOGNITION FOR ANYONE ELSE
EVEN SO, THEY WENT ALONG WITHOUT COMPLAINING
WELL, I GUESS THEY DID COMPLAIN A LOT, ESPECIALLY ARASHI
...
...

THEY POURED THEIR LOVE AND HARD WORK INTO THAT ONE DRESS
EVEN IF THEY DID COMPLAIN A LITTLE BIT
BUT MY POINT IS THAT THEY WENT ALONG,
REMEMBER HOW MIWAKO CALLED IT
OUR DRESS AT THE WRAP PARTY?
SHE SAID, "OUR DRESS WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL."
I WANTED TO TELL HER THAT THE AUDIENCE WAS STUPID

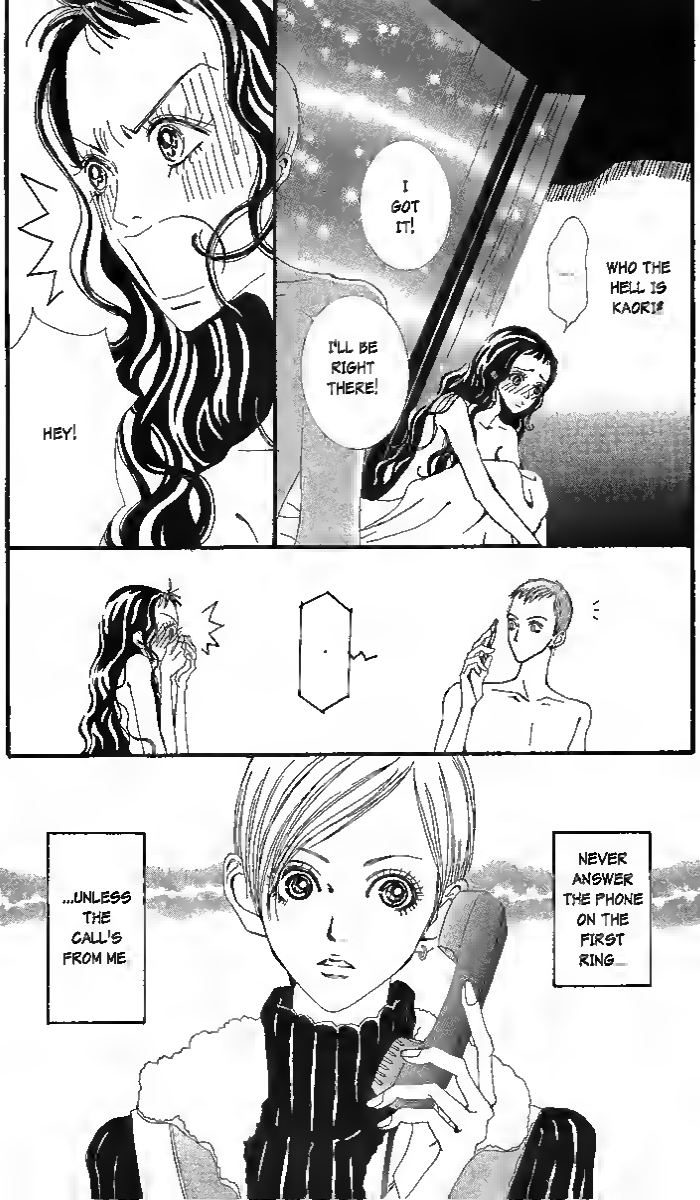
NO ONE ELSE WAS TO BLAME.
...WAS MY OWN LACK OF TALENT.
BUT THE REASON WE DIDN'T WIN...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN TO ME.
I'M SORRY...
DON'T CRY.

I'M TRULY GRATEFUL TO YOU, TOO
THAT'S PARTLY WHY I WANT TO TELL YOU ALL THIS
I WAS JUST SO FREAKING MAD ABOUT THE RESULTS
IT'S NOT THAT I THINK YOU OR THE OTHERS DID ANYTHING WRONG
BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M BEING BLAMED
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS
THAT'S NOT IT!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I HATE THIS!
DEEP DOWN, I'M REALLY JUST LIKE MY MOTHER
I'M ALL OBSESSED
WITH BEING NUMBER-ONE AND FIRST-RATE
IF THINGS DON'T GO JUST THE WAY I WANT THEM TO, I COMPLAIN AND TAKE IT OUT ON EVERYONE AROUND ME.
IT'S DISGUSTING
IN A WAY, I'M A LITTLE ENVIOUS THAT YOU'RE SO INTENSELY OBSESSED
WITH BEING NUMBER-ONE
WHAT?! ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?

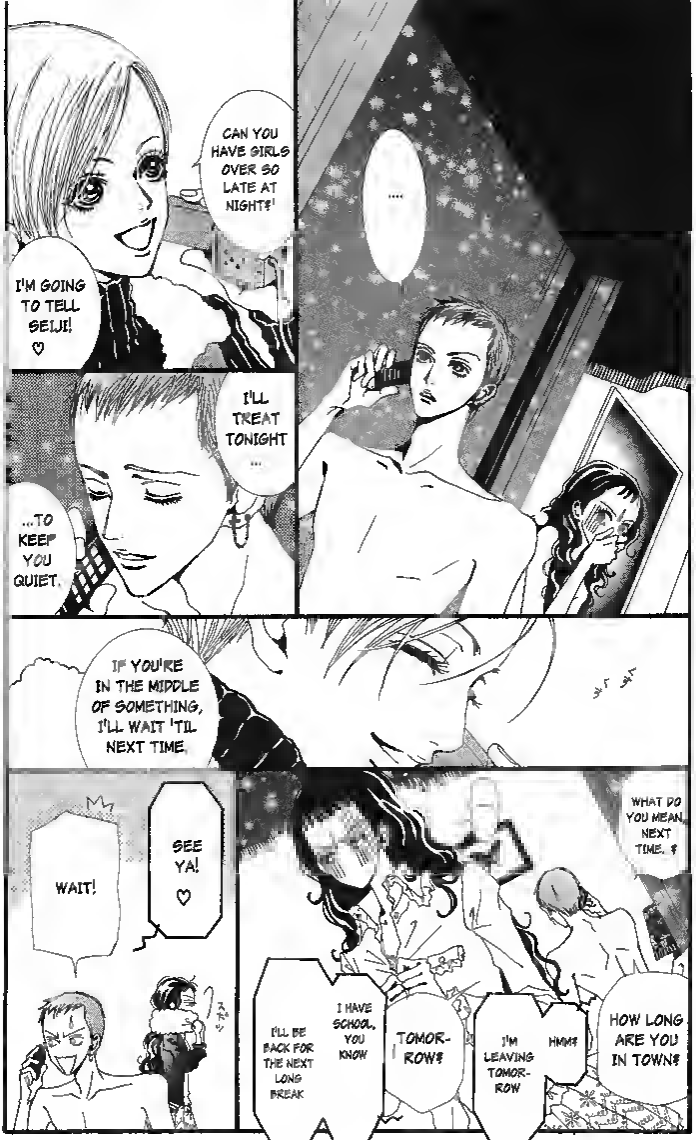
WHEN I MAKE CLOTHES, I DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING NUMBER-ONE TO ANYONE OTHER THAN MYSELF
NO, IT'S THE TRUTH
I KNOW THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH...
OH, YOU WERE LEAVING
I'LL DRIVE YOU
I'M STAYING.
I'M DOWN
BUT...
I'M GOING TO CONSOLE YOU, JUST LIKE I SAID
LEAVE IT TO ME.
REALLY?
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE...

...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HELP HIM
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CLOTHES...
I GUESS GEORGE IS DOWN IN HIS OWN WAY
プルルルル
HOW UNLIKE HIM TO LEAVE HIS PHONE ON...
OH, IT'S HIS...
....
AND HE ANSWERED TOO!
KAORI!
YES?
MOTHER?
SHIT! THE PHONE!
がばっ

WHAT!?
KAORI!
WHAT?
SORRY..
NO.
I GOT YOUR LETTER
YEAH,
HA HA HA HA
YOU REALLY CAME!
LETTERS
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHEN GEORGE BURSTS OUT LAUGHING,
IT'S NOT BECAUSE SOMETHING'S FUNNY,
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S HAPPY


HEY!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
I GOT IT!
WHO THE HELL IS KAORI?
NEVER ANSWER THE PHONE ON THE FIRST RING...
...UNLESS THE CALL'S FROM ME

STAGE 38


CAN YOU HAVE GIRLS OVER SO LATE AT NIGHTS!
I'M GOING TO TELL SEIJI! ♡
....
I'LL TREAT TONIGHT ...
...TO KEEP YOU QUIET.
IF YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING, I'LL WAIT 'TIL NEXT TIME.
WAIT!
SEE YA! ♡
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NEXT TIME, ?
HOW LONG ARE YOU IN TOWN?
HMM?
I'M LEAVING TOMOR-ROW
TOMOR-ROW?
I HAVE SCHOOL, YOU KNOW
I'LL BE BACK FOR THE NEXT LONG BREAK

I'M LEAVING!
HUH?!
WHY DON'T YOU FINISH UP WITH KAORI?

カチャ
THANK YOU FOR WAITING
A HA HA
PUMA
ピッ

ガバッ
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME
SORRY!
I'LL TAKE IT AS PROG-RESS...
...THAT HE RAN AFTER ME.
KAORI'S A CLASS-MATE...
...WHO'S STUDYING IN LONDON RIGHT NOW.
SHE CAME BACK HOME TO SEE THE SHOW.

...
HELLO, DID I EVEN ASK?!
YOU DIDN'T ASK THE QUESTION OUT LOUD, BUT I STILL HEARD YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.
YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF!
LOOK, SHE'S JUST A FRIEND
OUR SCHOOL IS... ...PRETTY MUCH OPEN TO ANYONE WHO HAS MONEY.
...SO WE GET OUR SHARE OF STUDENTS WHO JUST WANT TO SCREW AROUND AND HAVE FUN

KAORI WAS ONE OF THOSE
THERE'S THE STUDENT WHO COMES TO OUR SCHOOL AGAINST THEIR PARENTS' WISHES, AND HAS TO HOLD DOWN THREE JOBS JUST TO PAY THE TUITION
BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN,
I COULD NEVER WIN HER OVER
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR STUFF LIKE THAT.
YEAH... I CAN IMAGINE.
IT WAS A BIT OF A CULTURE SHOCK!
SHE WAS UNLIKE ANYONE I'D EVER MET BEFORE. I MEAN, I'VE GONE TO FANCY-SCHMANCY SCHOOLS EVER SINCE I WAS IN DIAPERS.
I TRIED HANGING OUT WITH HER ON A CASUAL LEVEL, BUT...
I WANT TO GO STUDY ABROAD...
SHE WAS WORKING AND MAKING CLOTHES 24/7. THE GIRL BARELY HAD TIME TO SLEEP!
SHE WAS OBSESSED WITH MAKING HER DREAM A REALITY.

I'D RATHER DIE THAN LOSE TO A CAREFREE DUMBASS LIKE YOU, GEORGE KOIZUMI!!
SO I'M GOING TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP BY WINNING THE GRAND PRIZE AT THE JUNIOR SHOW!
...BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.
INSTEAD OF FALLING FOR ME, SHE MADE ME HER RIVAL.
AND SHE CALLED ME A DUMBASS!
HA HA HA!
AND A YEAR LATER, SHE WON THE GRAND PRIZE AND WENT TO STUDY ABROAD, JUST LIKE SHE VOWED SHE WOULD
OH!
REALLY?!
WOW!

I JUST THOUGHT, "WHAT AN AMAZING GIRL!"
カチャ
REFILL ON THAT COFFEE?
I'LL TAKE A LITTLE MORE. ♡
SHOULD I LEAVE THE POT?

I JUST THOUGHT, "WHAT AN AMAZING GIRL!"

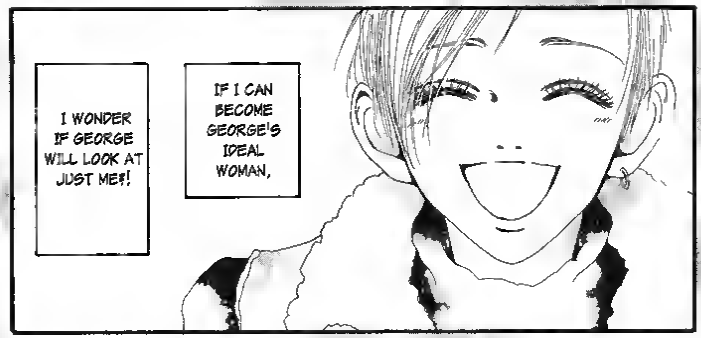
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

I MAY NOT SEEM LIKE ONE TO YOU, BUT I'M A BUDDING MODEL!
PLEASE!
MOVE YOUR HAND!
I'M SORRY!
JUST DON'T HIT MY FACE!
1 0 ア ー

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO HIT YOU, DON'T MAKE ME ANGRY!
OH, WELL...
ONCE I CAN MAKE IT ON MY OWN
MAKING A LIVING AS A MODEL,
THIS FACE THAT MY MOTHER'S GENES GRACED ME WITH...
...ALL OF IT,
...AND WHAT'S INSIDE...
...AND THIS BODY...
ガーガーガー
I GUESS BUDS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN JUST BUDS.

WILL BE ALL MINE, AND NOT HERS
MAYBE THEN SHE'LL UNDERSTAND
CAROLINE!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE COFFEE?
ざわ
ざわ
I'M LEAVING
SORRY FOR STAYING FOR JUST ONE CUP
NO PROBLEM.
THANKS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

JUST ONE MORE CUP!
EXCUSE ME!
WHAT THE HELL.



THEY HURT LIKE HELL

MY CHEEK AND MY HEART HURT

BUT I CAN'T CRY NOW, OR I'LL BE A DISGRACE TO ALL WOMANKIND

THE END

PARADISE KISS 5
COMING IN 2003

Will Kaori try to steal George away from Yukari, or will George and Yukari's love conquer all?

The suspense is mounting by the minute!

This volume still hasn't hit the stands in Japan...but, soon after it does, you'll have it in your hot, little hands here in the U.S.

Promise!

Manga/Romance
USA $9 99

One should either be a work of art, or wear a work of art.
- Oscar Wilde

The school fashion show is finally here, and it's a last-minute fight to the finish to get the awesome ensemble ready on time. The drama escalates when a stressed-out Yukari literally passes out from exhaustion in George's car. No one knows if she'll recover in time to model for the show. Meanwhile, a mysterious female friend from George's past shows up to support him on the big day Are they just friends. .or something more? Yukari's not sure who she can trust anymore. All she's 100% sure about is that she wants the Paradise Kiss posse to take first place at the fashion show, no matter what it takes. Will they reign victorious or be forced to taste the agony of defeat?

UPC Barcode
ISBN 1591821088
OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 18+
www.TOKYOPOP.com